

Headmaster's Diary

I signed an urgent order for more paper. 'We can't send this, unless you want to end up in jug. The place is bankrupt.'

This week we made the shocking discovery that our school finances had reached an alarmingly low ebb. Sybil Fordyce, my second deputy, had begun to copy the CSE "Design for Living" examination paper when the machine ran out of blank sheets.

Following the correct procedure which I laid down last term upon the recommendation of the staff resource and reprographic subcommittee, she collected the key of the emergency stock cupboard in the office - only to find the cupboard quite bare.

I immediately signed an urgent order for more paper, and launched a major inquiry into the disappearance of our reserve stock. I asked Arnold Bogwin, my first deputy, to look for any signs of a forced entry, and Mrs Snode, the secretary, took the padlock to Vincent Pile, the head of science, for forensic examination.

Meanwhile, Sybil checked through the triplicate copies of the "reprographic user voucher dockets" which, as a result of my new control system, were carefully filed next door. At times like this my experience in advanced management techniques really pays off.

Soon after, Mrs Snode came in with Vincent Pile close behind. "Ah, splendid," I said. "The inquiry already bears fruit!"

"You might say that," she retorted, with a twisted smirk. Then she put the order for paper in front of me, with an unnecessary thump. "We can't send this," she declared, "unless you want to end up in jug. The place is bankrupt."

"But this is absurd," I said. "We still have £300 left over from the new parents' punch 'n' pate carnival disco."

"We did," she replied, "but then you went and let him get at it."

Mrs Snode pointed at Vincent, who shifted uncomfortably and said, "If you remember, Dr Smellcroft, it was the new 32K ROM pack for our ZK903 computer. You agreed that this would enhance the presentation at the next governors' meeting."

"I dawned on me that Vincent had butted into me about this last week, and that it had seemed a good idea at the time."

"And that's not all," Mrs Snode continued. "We now know who opened the store cupboard and took the paper."

"This made me feel better. 'Ah, excellent,'" I said. "I knew my system would triumph in the end. We must give the culprit to book. This may be a matter for the governors. Congratulations, Vincent, on your investigations. Heads will roll. Let the villain be named. Who was it?"

Vincent looked sheepish, and Mrs Snode gave a loud snort. "Er, it was me, sir," Vincent said, "with your permission. Don't you remember? Right at the end of last term, I wanted to evaluate the new first-year science programme. You agreed I could run off copies of my assessment schedule for every pupil."

"There was a silence while I gathered my thoughts, and tried to look quietly confident. One must look self-possessed at times like this. I looked at the staff and more secure. 'Ah, yes, of course,'" I said, "with some degree of embarrassment and contriving a modest smile."

"Of course, my foot," said Mrs Snode. "What's the point of padlocks when you keep handing over the key? My brother is an executive with a security firm. He says people like you need to be protected from themselves."

"That will be enough," I said, "now kindly in command again." I noddy said over the urgent memo to all



So the vicar ignited the Torch of Sponsorship, while the school wind band played the specially composed concert overture, *El Sponsor*.

the staff. We must devise a crash programme to raise funds. I apologized to Arnold for my little oversight, and then together we tried to think of some event which would restore the school to solvency.

"We've squeezed the parents hard this year," he said. "The bazaar to buy the new microcomputer, the square dance for Vincent's extra software programs, and now there's only one packet of file paper left in the school."

At this forlorn moment, Fiona Bromley-Baskett - our lively head of home economics - came in with an inspiration, having seen my staff notice. "About your memo, my staff notice. 'It's some time since we had a sponsored walk. Let's do a really big weekend of sponsored events. I'll organize a knit-in, and all the staff can think of something. Every pupil could take part."

"It might work," Arnold said. "I'm sure it will," Fiona said. "It will at least work well enough to buy me a new food processor. Don't you agree, Dr Smellcroft?"

We decided to call this event the Candlewick Sponsored Olympiad, and I asked our chairman of governors, Councillor Dimpickle, to open proceedings by lighting the Torch of Sponsorship, handkerchiefs in wax in the school workshops. The school cost of arms, using the "di-wick" theme, made this a particularly apt creation.

But Dimpickle declined, saying that although school self-help schemes are in line with county policy, such a major exercise would draw unnecessary attention to the economy cuts, which have been forced on the committee by the general decline in world trade.

I thought this was missing the point, and I was about to draw attention to our MR, Sir Dudley Pirknoodle, when Arnold pointed out the result would be the same. They're all toting the party line," he said.

"Even old Humphrey Twitchett, the area education officer, will fight shy of this one. He's fishing for early retirement. You'll have to make do with the vicar."

So the vicar performed the ceremony, while the school wind band played a concert overture specially composed for the occasion by Cedric Mosh, our head of music, entitled *El Sponsor*. This featured an improvised cadenza by Cedric on the bassoon, for which he was raising 19p per bar.

Unfortunately, the staff had overindulged Cedric's taste for ale before the event, and the call of nature obliged him to begin the coda before reaching his target of £17 for a new set of chime bars. But perhaps it was just as well, since the band had been to fidget and the vicar's smile was becoming glazed.

An original event was the sponsored slip-in, devised by Arnold and involving the consumption of orange squash as slowly as possible by the first year pupils, after running a mile to work up a thirst.

Vincent Pile's computer games proved much less of a draw than I expected - presumably because the

young are glutted with that sort of thing. And his sponsored "gloria" fared no better. This was a curious affair, involving the showing of films about life in Russia, while the audience made glowing noises about the pleasures of life in our free society.

Cecil Stonejaw, the head of history, had asked me to ban this as too political, but in the event it didn't come to much, due to the difficulty of sustained glowing despite advance coaching by the drama department.

The most popular event was the sponsored horizontal climb arranged by Cecil in the centre of Candlewick. The idea was to pretend the high street was the north face of the Eiger. The participants wore mountaineering garb and spread themselves on the pavement, making the most fearful grunting noises as they struggled for handholds and the Saturday shoppers.

Four teams competed to be the first to plant a flag bearing the school crest outside the Foodrama supermarket, where the manager had offered a large tin of bully beef as the prize. The main problem was to circumvent the hardware shop, whose proprietor claimed the right to display his lawnmowers on the pavement in the direct path of the mountaineers.

Cecil finally obtained the county permission to move them aside, but then a large bag of blood and hose manure was inexplicably dropped in front of the teams just as they reached the shop. After donning his masks they managed to keep going to the cheers of the crowd.

The grand result was £750 for the school fund, and so the school will stay afloat after all. But it did seem an awful lot of work of a somewhat non-educational nature.

As Arnold and I were enjoying a cup of tea at the end of the day, Vincent came up to ask me if I could spare £300 for him to purchase another computer. Before I could reply, Arnold said, "Sorry, Vincent, the new padlock for the store cupboard is going to set us back quite a bit."

I suddenly realized that, important though this high technology is, I must put first things first.

Other principles agreed include: frankness and openness, with the teacher having access to the records. The appraisal should take place at regular intervals, and participation in the scheme should be voluntary with some sort of appeals procedure available.

And so the school will stay afloat after all. But it did seem an awful lot of work of a somewhat non-educational nature.

by Cecil in the centre of Candlewick. The idea was to pretend the high street was the north face of the Eiger. The participants wore mountaineering garb and spread themselves on the pavement, making the most fearful grunting noises as they struggled for handholds and the Saturday shoppers.

Four teams competed to be the first to plant a flag bearing the school crest outside the Foodrama supermarket, where the manager had offered a large tin of bully beef as the prize. The main problem was to circumvent the hardware shop, whose proprietor claimed the right to display his lawnmowers on the pavement in the direct path of the mountaineers.

Cecil finally obtained the county permission to move them aside, but then a large bag of blood and hose manure was inexplicably dropped in front of the teams just as they reached the shop. After donning his masks they managed to keep going to the cheers of the crowd.

The grand result was £750 for the school fund, and so the school will stay afloat after all. But it did seem an awful lot of work of a somewhat non-educational nature.

As Arnold and I were enjoying a cup of tea at the end of the day, Vincent came up to ask me if I could spare £300 for him to purchase another computer. Before I could reply, Arnold said, "Sorry, Vincent, the new padlock for the store cupboard is going to set us back quite a bit."

I suddenly realized that, important though this high technology is, I must put first things first.

Other principles agreed include: frankness and openness, with the teacher having access to the records. The appraisal should take place at regular intervals, and participation in the scheme should be voluntary with some sort of appeals procedure available.

A 30-page document produced by

Row likely over TUC seat

membership of 100,000 or more should have at least one seat on the general council.

At present the NUT is the only teaching union represented on the general council - whose members are elected at each annual conference.

However, there will be several moves to delay the implementation of the change when delegates meet in Brighton in September.

THE TIMES Educational Supplement

Career-linked appraisals threatened on cost grounds

by Richard Garner

Schools in inner London are likely to be encouraged to adopt regular work appraisals of the authority's 21,000 teachers.

The idea - which comes from a working party set up by the authority nearly three years ago - is to improve the career development and promotion opportunities for teachers.

However, according to a report to be submitted to the ILEA's staff development sub-committee next month, the working party's proposals would be too expensive.

It recommends, instead, that it should put forward more simplified proposals, dropping a formal link to career development which could be applied by individual schools.

The report says the authority would need to take on an extra 100 teachers at a cost of £1m a year - if all the teachers were to have a proper regular appraisal of their work.

The costing is based on the assumption that each appraisal would take half a day and mean the absence from the classroom for that time of both the teacher and the person who is doing the appraising.

According to the working party, it was agreed that the main emphasis of the appraisal should be on professional development and thus improve arrangements for reporting on teachers for promotion.

Other principles agreed include: frankness and openness, with the teacher having access to the records. The appraisal should take place at regular intervals, and participation in the scheme should be voluntary with some sort of appeals procedure available.

A 30-page document produced by



Detectives in history: a quill pen rouses interest during an ILEA summer school "investigation" of the eighteenth century household of Lord Chesterfield, statesman and celebrated letter-writer. The course at Ranger's House museum, Blackheath, culminated in a drama workshop last week.

£1m redundancy bill looms over Schools Council

by Nick Wood

The Government will be landed with a redundancy bill of about £1m if staff working for the doomed Schools Council are not offered jobs on the examinations and curriculum bodies intended to take its place.

The cost of the redundancy payments to the council's 100 staff was one of the main items on the agenda of a meeting this week between the Department of Education and local authority officials. This is the first time the two sides have met to work out the details of the council's demise, four months after the Education Secretary's statement in the Commons.

The size of the redundancy bill reflects the fact that council staff enjoy Civil Service contracts and previous employment elsewhere in the public sector counts towards any severance payments.

Also on the agenda at this week's meeting were superannuation payments and the future of contracts between the council and publishers, universities and colleges.

Ministers will also need to decide on the future of 50 council projects whose budgets stretch into the next financial year. The DES wants to stop funding the council at the end of next March so any that are reviewed will have to be transferred to the successor bodies.

A DES spokesman stressed that the meeting was to identify areas of agreement between the two sides. Final decisions on how the council is to be wound up will be left to the politicians, who face the awkward problem of synchronizing its closure with the creation of the new bodies. They will need to weigh carefully the cost of redundancies against the desire to give the examinations and curriculum councils a free hand in appointing staff.

One casualty of the delay in burying the Schools Council could be the timetable for a decision on the new 16-plus examination. The joint council of GCE and CSE boards, responsible for the new examination, is on course to complete draft criteria for 20 subjects by the end of November.

But with the key examinations council still to be decided upon, the criteria could be left gathering dust in Whitehall for some months. Delay seems inevitable because the Government has yet to name the chairman and chief executive who will run the new council.

It is thought that the former could be at his desk soon after appointment but given usual notice periods it is likely to be another three months before he could be joined by the council's full-time chief. Then would follow the laborious process of recruiting staff.

A DES spokesman said last week that the names would be released "in due course."

Morals and mammon

Platform: Bernard Barker: Why moral virtue does not necessarily ensure success in the job market.

National service

How education was put back a quarter of a century "in the national interest".

Never closed

Juvenile crime falls in Leicester as hundreds of children find school is the best place to be in the holidays. Is the all-year-round school here to stay?

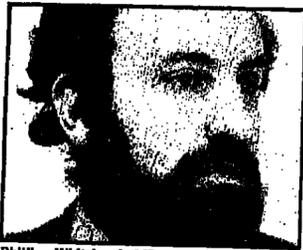
Arts/Books

Noting Hill Carnival preview, banks on popular music 18; Jenny Oldfield and A S J Walker on prisons and education. David Martin on approaches to sociology 17; Edward Hishon on William Golding. Peter Dornor on education and ideology 19; geography texts, poetry anthologies, children's literature 20.

Resources/Media

Jack Cross on activity holidays. Victoria Newmark on the recently reprinted Museum of Childhood 22, 23

Labour's attack on elitism



Philip Whitehead MP chairman of Labour Party higher education study group

Anyone who tries to take the Labour Party's *Education After Eighteen* document (page 4) seriously is likely to find the mind boggling fairly early on. The authors have tried to take a global view of the whole range of higher, further and adult education activities which they believe should be available to everyone from the age of 16-plus to the end of the *troisième âge*.

They also try to take account of the major structural changes which have been proposed in the Labour discussion paper on 16-19. Welding the various elements together into a coherent whole is no mean undertaking, and there are times when the reader pines for a better idea of what a Labour Secretary of State might actually be expected to do.

The financial implications of doing everything they would like to do are so great that anyone who has difficulty in believing in Father Christmas will look for principles and priorities rather than promises and plans.

What the document does is note the extent to which the present entry to higher education is biased in favour of middle-class, white, men, with what is regarded as the particular over-representation of the independent schools. Oxbridge demonstrates these biases in conspicuous ways and therefore comes in for special threats.

Having diagnosed what's wrong, the authors then look for ways of opening up the entry from groups now under-represented, both among those who go on-end from school, and from older men and women.

They see the present pattern of admissions as a direct consequence of the reliance on A levels and the over-specialized sixth form which perpetuates the head-start of the middle-classes.

Hence, a great emphasis on mature entry, not limited by A-levels, and on foundation and bridging courses as necessary. Hence, too, the

which would be greatly extended to give a much wider range of students the kind of maintenance now guaranteed only for those entitled to mandatory awards. Even better grants are envisaged for adult students.

Of course, the cost would depend on numbers, and the report is silent on numbers and rates of growth. For some candidates, support as a student would replace some other form of social benefit and might offset expenditure by the MSC, but whichever way you look at it, the sums would be great enough to make the boldest Chancellor blench.

As to the cost of providing the wider range of higher, further and adult education, this, too, would depend on the particular mix between full and part-time, and how far some of the "new" students were accommodated at the expense of the old. There is a hint of this:

"Resources must be reallocated within post-school education as a whole in favour of those institutions which provide increased opportunities for the priority groups which we have identified and which serve the needs of their local community and to provide financial support for many students on courses which have not previously attracted an award."

And here's the rub. If the universities and polytechnics are to be starved of resources for their hitherto regular clientele, the pressure on what could be called conventional courses will become even greater, and as the report notes, in such circumstances the universities and polytechnics are likely to become even more elitist, not less.

It is not clear that this can simply be countered by introducing a separate and special entry from among those without conventional A level qualifications, mature students, part-timers and so on. In practice, there are not just two groups, the presently qualified and the rest: there is a continuum which runs

from the cleverest, multi-A grade. A level candidate through the moderately-well and moderately-ill qualified, fairly young, fairly old, fairly privileged, fairly deprived. . . .

To do them justice, the authors are never so naive as to suggest it can be done without extra resources: on the other hand, they are certainly naive in their boundless faith that unlimited extra money can be forthcoming.

To try to broaden the base of post-secondary education, however, must be right. This is a clear-cut point of difference between Labour and the Conservatives. The Thatcherites have abandoned the increase in the age participation rate as a social aim, and have regarded adult education as totally expendable.

Without long-term hopes of expansion in higher education it is difficult to see how the open society can flourish. But this doesn't mean that there is any simple or quick way to redress the social imbalance.

It is not clear that it is possible to motivate more working class candidates without also motivating more of the marginal middle class group. This, after all, is what has happened in every phase of expansion so far and, though the report recognises the danger, it is not clear that Labour's notions of positive discrimination are sufficient to do the trick - nor yet, that there is the degree of discriminatory social commitment to ride out the indignation which would be caused by excluding the next tranche of middle-class candidates in favour of other, on the face of it less well-qualified, students.

NO COMMENT

"State three things that a living rabbit does that a toy rabbit cannot do."
From the South Western Examinations Board CSE biology paper, May 1982.

PLATFORM

Bernard Barker argues against Mary Warnock's suggestion that schools should encourage pupils to develop the moral virtues sought by employers.

Why our belief in self-help can be a serious hindrance

Mary Warnock (TES, July 30) raises the question of the age. Why do children succeed when they do? The suggestion is that qualities of character displayed by individuals are more vital than social factors - "social intervention will not make children good".

She argues that moral education will give employers what they want while sociology can only offer excuses for failure. Schools "have a duty to teach . . . these virtues" specified by a Ford manager as "self-respect and motivation, tenacity, flexibility".

Mercantile individualism is the principle underlying the critique of schools offered consistently and tenaciously since the Black Paper days by a variety of educational experts from Rhodes Boyson and James Callaghan to the CBI and now Mary Warnock. There is nothing new about question-begging, particularly with intractable social issues, but it is a mark of our despair that so many able men and women should so persistently clutch at the straw of self-help.

The assertion that moral virtue leads to riches on earth as well as in heaven is an ancient Christian tenet. It is the urgent need of evidence. Were the impoverished hapless weavers deficient in virtue or hard work? Did the Ludlows lack enterprise or determination?

Samuel Smiles adopted an anecdotal approach to this problem. He presented one engineer, entrepreneur or inventor after another to demonstrate that self-help, thrift, energy and the rest enabled humble men to transcend their origins to create the "workshop of the world". Smiles and Watt were the protagonists of individualism.

Unfortunately, even parables have to be investigated if they are to be used to explain economic history. How can the success of business be established without defined scientific

inquiry? Could such a study be conducted without the very social science so despised by the descendants of nineteenth century individualism?

The great difficulty for the individualist hypothesis is the enormous volume of research into the origins and nature of the "First Industrial Revolution". Mono-causal explanations whether based on merit rewarded or low interest rates or even expanding overseas markets no longer satisfy the economic historian.

Britain's success, like any other great change, depended on the confluence of many favourable circumstances. Individuals played a part, of course. The forces of history do not invent spinning wheels or珍妮. But can it be supposed that without Watt, there would have been no steam engine? Indeed, the evidence is that the defence of his patent slowed subsequent innovation.

There is a danger in this backward-looking search for the secret of success. Fancifully perhaps on Adam Smith or Samuel Smiles, the individualists forget that history teaches us too much for it to be useful to the present. The Third World leaders who studied the Industrial Revolution at British or American universities are even now piecing together

the ruins of economies that should have "taken off".

There is tautology as well as oversimplification here. Mary Warnock remarks that "we all know, in the case of our own children . . . that qualities of character do make a vast difference to life-chances". Virtues can be invented afterwards to fit the achievement.

"A pupil who succeeds at examinations is hard-working and/or intelligent. But suppose those who fail examinations are also hard-working, painstaking, motivated or flexible? Perhaps beetles can fly because they are black. Sweat and purity may or may not lead to a good idea but can moral improvement compensate for being born in the wrong place with the wrong set of assumptions (e.g. Calvinism, Marxism)?"

The quite reasonable meritocratic suggestion that as our society is open and mobile talent will naturally transcend its environment is based on a simple, fixed. Talent is no more a single, fixed, definable quality than is success itself. Ability and achievement are infinitely and independently variable, deeply affected by the vagaries of social and institutional pressure or prejudice.

The very word merit suggests something of its subjective character, implying that human qualities have to be discerned and approved by others and may be exercised only

in a social setting. This is why the attempt to distinguish character and virtue from a wider social and cultural context is doomed to failure and is logically fallacious.

Mary Warnock's further point, that "even if we got the academic curriculum absolutely right . . . it would not solve the problem" is another trap. She is asking teachers to foster moral qualities in general, not in relation to a particular task or a child's perception of that task.

If pupils do not listen can they learn tenacity? Can listening be taught? Is it a moral quality? Or should teachers concentrate instead on teaching English, history or mathematics as well as they can, knowing that virtue follows interest and a degree of success?

Perhaps the gravest weakness in the individualist critique of school is the lack of evidence for the miscellaneous vague allegations made year by year. No wonder social science is so scorned. Since the first Black Paper the complaints have been such that any rejoinder could be met by further criticism.

If more children are passing more examinations than ever before, it must be because the papers are easier, or the sheer numbers have diluted standards. If British industry is unsuccessful, it must be because teachers fail to inculcate the profit

motive.

On the other hand economics is part of an over-crowded curriculum, basic subjects should come first. The needs of industry, particularly engineering industry, have been neglected by "ivory tower academics" but the number of vacancies (either as apprentices or operatives) in manufacturing have slumped to almost nothing.

While business is in the mood to swing its double-edged sword, it is unlikely that schools will succeed in answering this latest worry. Should a teacher point out that the troops who gave their lives in the Falklands went to the same schools as young people now alleged to lack self-respect and tenacity there would be an instant outcry. National Service, Outward Bound for the pampered products of our comprehensive schools, with even the APU agreeing that development would raise very real difficulties: it would be a brave man who tried to prove that there is much to admire in the character of unemployed school leavers. "Every-one knows" there are jobs in plenty for the "right" people, after all.

The individualists have worked hard to scapegoat schools, comprehensive schools in particular, for the failures of the economy. Yet as the double queues lengthen and the hordes grow more hungry, it must surely be recognized that the contribution of these desperate circumstances is small indeed.

You cannot go on blaming badly filled-in application forms for the level of unemployment. Did our long lamented decline begin with poor spelling? Economic problems can only be solved by economic management and the individualists are in danger of highlighting the limits of moral evangelism.

Bernard Barker is headmaster of Slanground School, Peterborough.

Poly intakes may rise despite cuts

by Biddy Passmore

Polytechnics are expecting to admit more students this year than last, even though some have tried to reduce their intake because of spending cuts and the imposition of student targets by their local education authority.

If numbers rise again, after last year's unplanned increase of 9,000 new undergraduates, the polytechnics will be storing up trouble for themselves next year, when the course cuts to be implemented by the new National Advisory Body start to take effect.

Applications were up by between 30 and 50 per cent this year over

last, and most institutions appear to have made about 20 per cent more offers.

However, it is still impossible to tell if admissions will actually rise because many students have covered their bets by making multiple applications to universities and several polytechnics. It is too soon after A levels to say which they will accept.

"Many may think that because they have had more applications and made more offers than last year, there are going to be more students," commented Mr Mike Miller, academic registrar of the Polytechnic of Central London.

"But we can't tell until they turn up on our doorstep at the start of term."

He emphasized that many applications to PCL had come in before Christmas, at the same time as candidates apply to university, and were in traditional "university subjects" such as English and history.

The polytechnic simply could not afford to take in more students this year than last, he said, because, like the others run by the Inner London Education Authority, it was on level funding and the intake had risen by 22 per cent last autumn. But it

would admit as many students as possible.

Other polytechnic spokesmen were less sanguine about their prospects of keeping numbers down. At Sheffield Polytechnic, which had planned to cut its intake by more than 200, the possible increase was thought to be substantial. A spokesman said: "If we make offers and the candidate meets them, we've got to take them in."

At Oxford Polytechnic, where the local authority has set a limit on total enrolments, the problem appears to have been avoided by demanding higher grades.



Church denies overspending

by Bert Lodge

The Church of England this week rejected a DES accusation that its 2,400 aided schools were spending too much on repairs and improvements.

A letter earlier this month to governors of aided schools of all denominations from the department warned that if applications for aid continued at the same rate as that for July, this year's £2m budget would be exceeded by 200 per cent.

Since 1975 aided and special agreement schools have been entitled to an 85 per cent grant from the DES towards the cost of repairs and improvements. Last year an agreement was reached with the voluntary sector that for repairs likely to cost more than £5,000 they should seek prior approval.

Dr Geoffrey Duncan, Church of England schools officer, said he was not convinced the DES had established a case that the recent rate of expenditure had been unreasonably high.

"There appears to be no proper analysis of the cause of expenditure levels in recent months."

Welsh colleges escape lightly

Welsh colleges are to have their 1983 teacher training targets reduced by only 29, according to government figures announced today, writes Patricia Santinelli of *The Times*.

This contrasts with the cut of 1,450 places announced this month in English colleges, which will lead to the end of teacher training in 14 and threaten the closure of at least five.

The heavy emphasis on primary training in the Welsh institutions is the reason they have escaped so lightly.

The six colleges, Bangor Normal, South Glamorgan Institute, Trinity College, Gwent College, West Glamorgan Institute and the North-East-Wales Institute of Higher Education, are to have their current total teacher training targets cut from 715 to 686.

What's all this, then?

Children who get lost in a community school which is opening next month in Essex won't have far to go to ask the way - there is a police station on the site.

Both school and police office are part of a £2.1m purpose-built community centre opening today in the riverside town of South Woodham Ferrers.

Superintendent Robin Blackmore, of Chelmsford police, said the new premises - necessary because the town has grown from a population of 4,000 to 10,000 - would help the police with their schools liaison programme.

One relief for pupils: "There won't be any cells in the police office or an outward deterrent for bad behaviour in the classroom", a county council spokesman said. "It is just an extension of facilities for the arm of the law."



New lease of life: Mr Simon Shirley, a teacher, is one of a group of parents who plan to reopen Tarrant Keynton village school in Dorset, closed down in the 1970s because it was uneconomical to run. Already 50 pupils are on the register for September. Mrs Sarah Burnett, one of the parents involved, says the school is to be run on the Waldorf system of education, which places emphasis on the development of the individual child. Parents unable to pay the school fees of £50 a month will be asked to help decorate the school.

Belt case damages reply

The British Government's reply to the claim for damages against the Government by the two Scottish mothers in the Strasbourg belting case has been sent to the European Commission on Human Rights.

Mrs Grace Campbell, of Bishopscote, and Mrs Jane Cosans, of Cowdenbeath, are claiming moral damages and legal costs from the Government. In February the commission found that it had violated their philosophical convictions by refusing to guarantee that their children would not be subjected to corporal punishment, under the European Convention of Human Rights.

The next step will be for the commission to try to effect a "friendly settlement" between the parties. If that fails, the Court of Human Rights will have to decide how much damages should be awarded.

The Government's response to the Strasbourg judgment on corporal punishment looks like being delayed.

TES has moved

The address of The Times Educational Supplement is now: Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX. Telephone: 01-253 3000 Telex: 264971.

L.e.a. prepares to obey Sir Keith over parent choice

by Sarah Bayliss and Biddy Passmore

Conservative leaders in Solihull were to meet senior officers yesterday to decide whether to obey a command from the Department of Education to supply information about five cases of school choice where the parents have complained damages and legal costs from the Government. In February the commission found that it had violated their philosophical convictions by refusing to guarantee that their children would not be subjected to corporal punishment, under the European Convention of Human Rights.

The next step will be for the commission to try to effect a "friendly settlement" between the parties. If that fails, the Court of Human Rights will have to decide how much damages should be awarded.

The Government's response to the Strasbourg judgment on corporal punishment looks like being delayed.

The letter gives three examples of cases where the Education Secretary might uphold a complaint: where the authority had withheld or given inaccurate information to the appeal committee; where its published admissions policy conflicted with the parent's right to express a preference under Section 6 of the new Act; or where the decision had been based on that policy or on a practice inconsistent with its published information.

Only a handful of the 114 cases which have gone to the Education Secretary are expected to fall into any of these categories. As *The Times* went to press, 28 sets of parents had already been notified of their lack of success.

Confusion over the working of the new appeals procedure has been

86% success in degree exams

A good record by any standard. But achieved, not by full-time students as you might expect, but by Wolsey Hall students studying part time and at home for London University honours degrees.

The secret? Just good, honest, very personal tuition, which, as any teacher knows, is the only answer.

Students have their own Tutor in each subject, their own Student Advisor throughout the course and comprehensive course material. Regular seminars are held and telephone contact with tutors is possible in many subjects. Studying at home no longer means studying alone.

The following London University courses are offered: BA Hons. English, French, History, Geography, Philosophy; LL.B., B.Sc. Econ, B.D., Diploma in Education. In addition a wide range of GCE courses for all Boards is available.

For full details please write or telephone, stating your exam of interest:

The Hon. Frank Fisher, CBE, MC, MA, Principal, Dept BD3, WOLSEY HALL, OXFORD OX2 6PR. Tel (0865) 54231 (24 hours)

Chief officers gain arbitration on 14 per cent pay claim

by Sarah Bayliss

A pay claim affecting the salaries of senior officers in local government, 1,200 of whom work in education departments.

The claim, which was due on July 1, is for a 14 per cent increase. The employers' side has offered 5 per cent.

It covers the pay of about 4,000 senior officers in local government, 1,200 of whom work in education departments.

At the last meeting of the Joint National Council which negotiates pay and conditions, the employers requested that any move towards arbitration should be shelved until junior officers' pay - currently being considered by an arbitration panel - was settled.

That settlement for administrative, professional, technical and clerical grades concerns a claim of 9.4 per cent and an employers' offer of 5.25 per cent.

But the staff side of the JNC refused to wait and invoked its right to go to arbitration unilaterally.

"We felt it would be unsatisfactory to leave such an important matter lying on the table. Payment is already overdue," said Mr John Barnes, chief education officer for

Salford and secretary of the Association of Education Officers - the negotiating wing of the Society of Education Officers.

Mr Barnes said the 14 per cent claim was based broadly on the recent award to top civil servants. Initially, officers had asked for a "substantial increase" but that was translated into a firm figure after the employers had requested one.

He said the claim was reasonable because chief officers pay had fallen behind other public service workers in recent years. Senior education officers were now sometimes earning less than the heads and principals of schools and colleges.

Membership of the arbitration panel has not yet been agreed and a settlement was not expected for at least six weeks.

Mr John Lovell, chairman of the JNC employers' side and Conservative leader of the Association of County Councils, described the 14 per cent claim as "extreme" especially since local government had a 4 per cent cash limit on pay this year.

The awards to the police and firemen were, he said, fulfilling previous promises. The arbitrators in this case should pay heed to the 6 per

cent award to teachers. "It would be unthinkable, immoral even, for us to contemplate paying more than twice what we've paid to others," he said.

The officers' side had referred to the award for top civil servants and were seeking parity. But this award had applied to under-secretary level and the vast majority of local government officers were not at that level.

He understood the argument that some education officers earned less than headteachers in their own authorities but it was a fact they would have to accept. "In all institutions, public and private, you can find skilled workers earning more than their bosses."

Meanwhile, attempts to establish a new negotiating machinery for all chief officers in local government have run into further difficulties.

Employers and employees have agreed a new system should be devised and a draft constitution has been approved. However, the white collar union Nalgo wants most of the seats available - something which the professional officers associations, including the AEO, are resisting.



The fate of this handicapped youngster's adventure playground in the grounds of Chelsea Rectory hung in the balance this week as a deal under which the land would be sold along with the house awaited the final approval of the Church Commissioners. The London Diocese of the Church of England has already been attacked by local residents for proposing the sale and the Church Commissioners said this week that they could only approve the deal if "several church parties", including the Bishop of London, the Right Rev. Graham Leonard, were happy with it.

OU denies that applicants put off by paperwork

A suggestion that too much form-filling was causing an increasing number of students to turn down offers of an Open University place was rejected this week by the university admissions office.

This year, a record 43 per cent of initial applicants have turned down a place for February, 1983. The figure last year was 38 per cent and in 1980 it was 25 per cent. About 45,000 applications have been received for the 24,500 places annually offered and the university still expects to fill them, but the refusal rate is worrying because its annual grant from the Government is based on student numbers.

Mr Sam Crooks, undergraduate admissions officer, said that the possibility that the admission procedure

was too difficult was considered, and formed a question in last year's annual enquiry into why people turned down a place.

"The numbers replying yes were infinitesimal - a mere 0.22 per cent," he said.

Dr David Stewart, director of the OU north-west region, who had suggested in the university's newspaper, *Sesame*, this month that the material sent to people offered a place was too complicated, said this week that he had more in mind the system for collecting and payment of fees.

Mr David Gallon, acting director of the London region, pointed out that the profusion of forms was the consequence of the OU doing all it could to help potential students.

All change

Regulations governing the number of children that can be taken on school buses may be reviewed. The Department of Transport has written to local authority associations asking if a rule known as the "three for two" rule whereby three children under 15 can occupy two seats should be reviewed for safety reasons.

Teachers favour sixth-form colleges

The report concerning the reorganisation of Liverpool's Roman Catholic secondary schools (TES August 20) which stated that a "small minority" in the Catholic Teachers Association was in favour of sixth form colleges should have read "small majority".

All adults should have access to universities, document says

Labour's leaked proposals to extend educational opportunities to all over 18 have been greeted with a mixture of enthusiasm for their aims and scepticism about their practicality.

At the heart of the plans is a scheme to give all adults the right to up to one year's education and a change in admissions procedures so that the universities would no longer be the almost exclusive preserve of 18-year-olds with two A levels.

This week, many people in the higher education world applauded the principle of opening up access to courses to more students without conventional qualifications - although spokesmen for both the university and polytechnic sectors said they were already doing much of what the document recommends. But they emphasized the huge cost of implementing the proposals in full, and worried about the possible effect on standards.

The 70-page discussion document, called *Education after 18 - Expansion with Change* was to be discussed by the party's education sub-committee yesterday. It was drawn up by a working group chaired by Mr Philip Whitehead MP, Labour's higher education spokesman, and including Mr Neil Kinnock, chief opposition spokesman, Professor Tessa Hackett, of London University's Institute of Education, and Mrs Stella Greenall, former adviser to Mrs Shirley Williams when she was Education Secretary.

The plans envisage a two-stage progression towards a general right to education after 18. In the first, improvements would be made to the existing system of course provision and financial support. Mandatory grants would be extended to cover designated non-advanced courses, tuition fees would be abolished and courses would receive help with travel and other costs. The parental contribution would be ended and the full amount paid direct to students with the cost recouped through the tax system.

Paid educational leave would be backed by a new legal duty on employers to set up workplace education and training committees to negotiate its terms and conditions. For study which was not related to work, there would be a statutory right to unpaid educational leave of a maximum of four weeks a year which could be accumulated.

These proposals would pave the way for the second stage: an adult educational entitlement of up to one

Labour aims welcomed but feasibility in doubt

(36-week) year of tuition, open to all over 18 who had not gone on from school to full-time further education. No formal academic qualification would be needed to take up this entitlement, which could be used either in short courses or full or part-time study.

All higher education institutions would have to review their admissions requirements, to broaden them beyond the present A level criteria, and would have to mount conversion or preparatory courses where necessary.

Oxford and Cambridge would not be exempt from these demands. Condemned for the high proportion of private school pupils they admit and described as a "major cancer in the educational system", they must make three changes, the document says: end the seventh term entrance examination, increase the number of "matriculation offers", and introduce special foundation courses for those without conventional qualifications.

If they failed to comply, "the would have no option but to institute a Commission of Inquiry to examine the whole principle of college autonomy and the Oxford and Cambridge Act 1877, with a view to its amendment".

The document concedes, however, that a universal system "does not mean that all institutions will be similar or that there will be no academic criteria for admissions in respect of some courses".

The plan to change the strict entry requirements of Oxbridge and other universities was immediately denounced by Dr Rhodes Boyson, junior education minister. Labour's compulsory comprehensive policy had already lowered academic standards in many schools, he claimed. "It is not attempting to cover up the damage it has caused by tampering with the minimum standards of university entry and by an attack on two of our most distinguished universities."

Dr Harry Judge, director of Ox-

ford University's Department of Educational Studies, also gave a warning that widening access to universities could end in diluting standards, he said he favoured a quota system for mature entrants.

In fact, polytechnics and (to a lesser extent) universities, are already admitting an increasing proportion of mature students, and many make great efforts to attract those without conventional qualifications. In 1980, just under 10 per cent of new university students did not have two A levels. Most of these had equivalent qualifications like those of the Business and Technician Education Councils, but some had no formal qualifications.

In the polytechnics, nearly a third of the new home students admitted to first degrees in 1980 were over 21, although it is not clear what proportion had no formal qualifications.

Labour admits that meeting the cost of its plans will involve "considerable public expenditure" but says this must be set against the costs of keeping people on the dole, and of not training adults to cope with technological advances.

The document suggests four ways of paying for the proposed entitlement: a system of educational loan; a system like that used for the National Health Service; a payroll tax; and training purposes; negative income tax, which would replace tax allowances with cash benefits below a certain income level; and loans.

Loans are firmly rejected as objectionable in principle, and costly and difficult to administer.

Mr Kinnock told *The Times* he wanted to allocate significantly more funds to this sector and we are committed to restoring the Tory cuts, but we don't simply want to reconstruct the edifice as it was in 1979.

However, the document is not expected to undergo any substantial changes in its progress through the party's committees structure. Its bare bones have already been approved and were inserted into Labour's Programme 1982. After discussion in the education sub-committee, the draft document will go to the full National Executive Committee next month and a motion summarizing the policy will almost certainly be debated - and approved - at the Party Conference.

Biddy Passmore

More flexible FE-school staff links are urged

by Bert Lodge

A new teacher qualification allowing staff movement both ways between schools and further education colleges is called for this week by the Polytechnic Council for the Education of Teachers.

Responding to government proposals published in May that a teacher's qualification in future should be limited to teaching certain subjects to certain age groups, the council concedes there may be something in the idea, provided it is a little more flexible. This could be achieved by the concept of major and minor subjects in a teacher's qualification.

The rigidity of the original proposal could also be lessened by giving teachers qualifications to teach subject areas, such as science, technical subjects or linguistics, rather than single subjects.

Allowing the age ranges to overlap - for instance, pre-school to nine, five to 11, seven to 13, or 11 upwards - would allow further flexibility.

The council, representing 22 polytechnic education departments,

recognizes that England and Wales are among the last developed countries in which qualified status is granted without limitation of age range or subject. "This fact alone makes it appropriate to consider whether a practice which dates back to an earlier period of educational history and which is now almost unique in the developed world is appropriate to the needs of the 1980s and 1990s."

But the system does have the value of flexibility through local management discretion, PCET feels. It also allows curriculum innovation through the introduction of integrated or interdisciplinary courses.

Qualified teachers can at present work in further education but FE lecturers are barred from schools unless specially recruited by the local education authority for shortage subjects.

"This distinction is invidious in a number of ways and changes in the education of the 16-plus range make the distinction today more or less untenable."

Conversion courses should be in-

stituted to enable teachers to move from schools to FE and vice versa. They could also enable teachers to extend their subject range.

Lack of flexibility in establishing a qualified teacher status could be extremely harmful to the country's middle schools, a teachers' union claimed this week.

The Professional Association of Teachers, in its comments on the DES paper, says that the present proposals will divide primary and secondary teachers.

It adds: "One of the most interesting and useful developments in the English education system has been the cross-fertilization between the primary and secondary sectors."

"This has been very beneficial to the education service, especially where skills developed in the primary sector on the teaching of reading and other basic skills have been used to great effect with slow learners in the secondary sector."

It concludes: "Lack of flexibility in qualified teacher status could be extremely harmful to existing middle schools."

TUC urged to condemn training closures

Course cuts bring fear of secondary staff shortage

by Richard Garner

The TUC conference will be urged to condemn Government moves to cease teacher training courses at 16 colleges - announced two weeks ago.

The issue will be raised by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education in an emergency amendment to be taken during the conference's education debate.

The conference, which is being held in Brighton during the first week of September, will be told that the Government's decision to reduce the number of places for secondary teachers will limit educational opportunities and "mean that by the end of the decade the teacher training system will be unable to meet the rising demand for secondary school teachers".

NATFHE is also adding another amendment to the main education debate, condemning moves by the Government to centralize the form and content of education and to "undermine democratic proce-

dures".

In addition, the National and Local Government Officers' Association is tabling an amendment at the conference which calls for a major overhaul of the present rating system.

It is urging the introduction of a system of local income tax as a supplement to rates and calling for the active involvement of the trade union movement in the consultative stage of the rate support grant deliberations.

Meanwhile, the engineering section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has tabled an amendment to be heard during the industrial training debate claiming that youth unemployment was one of the main reasons behind the inner city riots last year.

It calls for immediate government action to provide industrial training programmes for all 16-to-19-year-olds at trade union rates with extended facilities to help them serve a full apprenticeship.



Picture: Mike Abraham/Network

Having a ball: Youngsters dive into lightweight balls at Gingerbread Corner, a play centre in Croydon, Surrey, which looks after 100 primary school children while their parents are at work.

The centre is based in a redundant school building which is being renovated by the local branch of Gingerbread, the self-help group for one-parent families, with the aid of a grant from the council.

During the term, children are collected in three mini-buses from 18 schools at the end of the day. During school holidays, parents deliver their children at 9.30 am and collect them after work.

NUT insurers clinch deal

The Teachers' Provident Society, the insurance wing of the National Union of Teachers, has just clinched the biggest commercial deal by purchasing a new shops and offices complex in Royston, Hertfordshire.

The NUT, which provides insurance facilities for NUT members, their wives and children, has paid

£870,000 for the two-year-old development.

The society now has funds in excess of £20 million, invested three ways - in property, in government stock and in ordinary stocks.

The new development comprises a supermarket, sweet shop and tobacconist, gift shop, chemist, a wine store and offices.

Educated calculators. Casio Magic!

FX-550
10 digit (8+2) display, 46 functions, standard deviations, Fractions, Hyperbolics, True algebraic logic. RRP £17.95.

FX-900
Solar powered, 41 function scientific calculator, 8 digit (6+2) display, Standard deviations, 5 sets of parentheses, functions, R-R, FIX, SCI, RND. RRP £22.95. Also FX-950 with 47 functions including hyperbolics and 10 digit (8+2) display. RRP £25.95.

FX-180P
10 digit (10+2) 38 step, 55 function, programmable scientific calculator with scientific calculator, Regression analysis, Integrals, 7 memories, 18 sets of parentheses, Percent, logs, RRP £22.95. Also FX-3600P with 41 functions including hyperbolics and 10 digit (10+2) display. RRP £25.95.

FX-602P
10 digit (10+2) programmable calculator with scientific calculator display and 50 scientific functions. Up to 512 steps and 512 memory registers. Up to 10 programme steps, and 9 levels of sub-routines. RRP £29.95. Also FX-702P BASIC language computer with up to 1680 steps and 256 memory registers. RRP £69.95. Optional cassette tape interface (FA2) and mini printer (P1P) available.

Casio's range of over 150 calculators represent outstanding performance, reliability and value for money.

DISCOVER CASIO MAGIC FOR YOURSELF AT: ARGOS BOOTHS, CURRY'S, DEYONS GREENS IN DERHAM, D. G. LESBIE CENTRES, HOUSE OF FRASER, LAMARU CALCULATORS, LEWIS, MUMFORDS, FRANK SELFORDS, NEW START, TOWNUS OF CHICHESTER, WOODWARDS, WALLACE HEATH, WELDON FORCE EQUIPMENT, F.W. WOODS WORTH AND WOODS. Also Dealers: John Vane Stores, Hounslow, Westhampstead, Lush, McRoberts Stores, Middlesbrough, Sainsbury's, Sainsbury's and other leading High Street and Departmental stores.

CASIO
BECAUSE TIMES ARE CHANGING

Casio Electronics Co. Ltd., Unit 8, 1040 North Circular Road, London NW2 2JG.

A VERY SPECIAL PRINTOUT

In March we published a special inset on 'Schools and Computers'. It featured an interview with Kenneth Baker, an article by Seymour Papert, the work of the Microelectronics Education Programme, the proliferation of computing languages and several more highly illuminating articles on the subject. Reprints of this 12-page supplement are now available at a cost of 50p each (including postage).

Send all orders to the address below enclosing your cheque/PO (no cash please) made payable to Times Newspapers Limited.

Nigel Denton
Supplements Promotions Manager

Priory House
St John's Lane
London EC1M 4BX

A sound idea which did not work - i.t.a. director

by Margaret Prosser

The Initial Teaching Alphabet has proved a costly mistake that has held back the cause of simplified spelling, says the education professor who directed the i.t.a. experiment in British schools 20 years ago.

Professor John Downing told *The TES* that "prejudice" had cut the number of primary schools using i.t.a. from 10 per cent at the time of the Bullock Report to a mere 280 today. As a result, he claims, the number of pupils in remedial classes has soared and committed i.t.a. teachers had been forced to set up their own protection society, the i.t.a. Federation.

"Our research programme showed without a doubt that by using i.t.a. remedial classes could be cut by 50 per cent," Professor Downing said. But the very people who revolutionized our infant schools in the 1960s, and turned them into some of the finest schools thought that i.t.a. was unnatural.

Now professor of education at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, John Downing's work is almost wholly concerned with the psychology of reading. But he has recently underlined his commitment to spelling reform by taking on the presidency of the small and unfashionable Simplified Spelling Society whose 100-strong membership is fairly evenly divided between

academics and practising remedial teachers.

In 1960 when Professor Downing set up the i.t.a. experiment involving more than 200 schools, the Simplified Spelling Society had already celebrated its 30th anniversary. And in response to gibes from those who argued that it was useless to press for spelling reforms without being explicit about the method, had produced "New Spelling", a system based on the conventional alphabet. But Professor Downing was unaware of that.

Appointed from Unilever to head the i.t.a. research programme, he felt he had been chosen partly because of his neutrality on spelling reform. The neutrality, however, carried the parallel disadvantage of leaving him unaware of possible alternatives to i.t.a., he says.

He should not have used it. We should have gone for a system based on the regular



alphabet," he says. "The reading research programme was set up to test the proposition that English spelling reform was necessary to prevent reading difficulties.

"There was a lot of pressure to use i.t.a. and I was happy to do so. We should have used something like New Spelling for example. We've paid for the mistake of using i.t.a. At the time none of those concerned in the research would have described i.t.a. as anything other than a starting success.

"I became convinced by the end of the second year of research - by then it was already quite clear that



Former Education Minister, Mr Patrick Gordon-Walker, was an enthusiastic advocate of i.t.a. in the early years of the experiment.

i.t.a. children were progressing much faster," he said. "I would never knock i.t.a. It brought marvellous results but attitudes have prevented its continued use."

It is the number of symbols - 44 - which make up the initial teaching alphabet which Professor Downing feels set up huge barriers of resistance from parents and printers. He believes a further disadvantage is the length of time teachers have felt they should use it with their children and that it has now become clear that three months is the most effective time-scale. And although he sees the i.t.a. Federation, set up in 1978, as having "stopped the rot", he thinks i.t.a. is unlikely ever to become popular again.

Professor Downing backs the view of Federation secretary, Jessie Lintern, that the parents of the 1970s were never given the informed picture before them, thus allowing the prejudice to increase and i.t.a. support, where it was not actively withdrawn, to go by default.

So where to next? To an outsider

the Simplified Spelling Society presents a curiously passive image in view of the fact that half its membership consists of remedial teachers faced with the daunting daily task of sorting out confusion over the lack of sound/spelling correspondences in the English language.

That the society has made so little practical impact, is largely, Professor Downing believes, a reflection of the other half of the membership - academics from linguistic disciplines who tend to be diffident about self-publicity. Much of the work goes on therefore behind the scenes - building up information and quietly pushing and encouraging people with power to bring about change.

In fact Professor Downing heads the evolutionary stance now adopted by the society. "New Spelling" has been put in mothballs and the society has steered away from advocating any one particular spelling reform. Instead it endorses all small and gradual reforms - such as altering ph to f - and also aims to foster more widespread interest in simplifying spelling.

Village schools up for sale

by Nick Wood

As councils react to falling rolls and spending cuts, the humble village school, complete with outside grounds and underused loos, is increasingly finding itself up for sale.

Latest DES figures bear out the trend. In 1980, primary school closures stood at 83, a fairly typical tally for the late 1970s. But last year, Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, sanctioned the demise of 183.

Mr John Herring of Durham County Council's estates department has three buildings on his books enticing prospects for the teacher who likes taking his work home with him.

One of them is in Pickering Nook, in a small village on the Gateshead to Consett road. Mr Herring reckons it will take a bid of just £50,000 to pick up the school, a solid Victorian creation of stone and

slate, and the adjoining caretaker's house.

For that money the buyer will get four classrooms, a staff room, a small kitchen and two cloakrooms. Gas-fired central heating adds a touch of luxury.

Several hundred miles away in Dorset, Mr Douglas Morris, educational officer for the Salisbury diocese, also finds himself in the unhappy situation of selling off voluntary aided Church of England primary schools in Dorset has fallen from 71 to 48 and from 53 to 39 in Wiltshire.

A graph in his office measures the schools' "slow decline". More cheerful in their information are, for instance, a restaurant and tearoom, an educational field study centre, a garage and, most poignantly, a sausage factory.

Flushing out the facts

Primary pupils in Hertfordshire have been filmed going in and out of the school lavatories in an effort to find out how many showers are provided.

Researchers from the government-funded Building Research Establishment set up close cameras outside the lavatory doors to reveal Hertfordshire primary schools for an hour a day for eight days.

They discovered that though the

demand varies considerably from school to school, on average most primary schools need fewer wash-basins and lavatories than the building regulations require.

A test for the revision of scales for primary accommodation in schools by P. J. Davison, BRE Information Paper, 10/82, Garsdon, Walford, W.D.2 2LR.

People

Sir Hermann Bondi, aged 62, who is professor of mathematics at King's College, London, and chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council, has been appointed to the Mastership of Churchill College, Cambridge, in succession to Sir William Hawthorne who will be retiring on July 31, 1983.

Newcastle upon Tyne Education Committee has appointed the following head teachers: Mrs M J Hickey to St Albans's R C primary; Mrs W Wareup to Cheviot primary school; Mrs K B Gilbert to Throckley middle school; Mrs V Grange to Linhope first school; Mrs V I Hay to Throckley first school; Mrs F Osleston to Regent Farm primary school; Mr R W Thornton to Chesley middle school; Mr D Jones to Denton Park middle school; Mrs I E Davison to English Martyrs R C primary school; Mr P Illingworth to Heaton/Manor Park comprehensive merger; and Mr B Thexton to Slatford/John Marlay comprehensive merger.

Miss Patricia Burdock has been appointed head of St Lawrence R C primary school, Feltham, Middlesex. At present she is deputy head of the Pound Hill first school, Crawley.

Mr Phillip Dryer, aged 50, has been appointed head of Old Palace primary school, St Leonard's Street, Bow, London. He has taught at the school since 1970 and been deputy head for the past seven years. He has also worked as a taxi-driver and GPO technician.



Phillip Dryer

Mr Brian Fitzgerald, aged 31, has been appointed head of English Martyrs R C primary school, St Mark's Street, Stepney, London. He is at present acting head of St Mary and St Michael R C junior school, Sutton Street, Stepney.

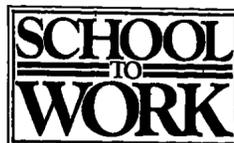
Mr Dick Cooper, aged 36, is the new head of Ficerot primary school, Tooting. He has been on secondment to the Inner London Education Authority's Research and Statistics Group for the past two years to work on a study on the influence of school on junior children.

University College, University of London, has announced the following appointments in the Faculty of Law: Professor W L Twining has been appointed to the chair of jurisprudence, and the Professor of Law at the University of Warwick. Professor Hepple is a chairman of an industrial tribunal and was Professor of Law at the University of Kent at Canterbury. Professor J L Jowell who holds the chair in public law at University College London has been appointed head of the department of law in succession to Professor Lord Lloyd of Hampstead who is retiring on September 30.

Dr John F A Sawyer has been appointed to a personal professorship in Old Testament language and literature at Tyne. He has been Reader and Head of the Department of Religious Studies at the university.

Unemployment among school leavers now tops 300,000

School leaver unemployment has gone over the 300,000 mark for the first time ever. The August figures, published by the Department of Employment, show that 306,000 school leavers were registered as out of work, leaving aside thousands of other young people on special training schemes.



This record figure is an increase of 28,000 on August last year, though it conceals the fact that this year many leavers appear to have delayed registering.

In all previous years the biggest bulge in the young jobless total was in July, and the figure normally declined in August. Last year there were 286,000 school leavers out of work in July, and 278,000 a month later. This year, however, there was a tiny rise - about 2,000 - between July and August.

These statistics exclude more than 400,000 people on various temporary government schemes, the majority of whom are young. Last month, 210,000 young people were on the Youth Opportunities Programme, and another 84,000 on the young workers scheme - introduced this year.

The only hopeful sign is that there was a slight increase in the number of vacancies compared with August last year.

DHSS rethink over 21-hour benefits rule

The Department of Health and Social Security has decided that unemployed school leavers will have to wait three months before they can do any part-time study and claim supplementary benefit.

An administrative memorandum sent by the Department of Education to all local authorities this week refers to new regulations issued by the DHSS in May covering the "21-hour rule" under which unemployed people can study part-time and claim supplementary benefit.

The rule originally caused confusion throughout the country and local branches of the DHSS interpreted it in different ways. Colleges were baffled about whether all the time spent in study or on college premises should be included.

The DES memorandum confirms that in future unemployed people of all ages will have to wait three months before they can take advantage of the 21-hour rule. But, as a concession, some study will be allowed.

Jobs scheme faces boycott

Voluntary organizations in London and Merseyside are planning to boycott the Government's new Community Programme Scheme which is to replace the Community Enterprise Programme in October.

The scheme is designed to help the long-term unemployed but the voluntary organizations believe it is doomed to fail through under-financing.

At present the CEP pays £89 a week for full-time jobs whereas the average wage costs of the new CPS will be £60 a week - and training costs will have to be included in this figure.

The CPS, unveiled last month by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, is expected to increase the number on community work from the present level of 30,000 to 130,000.

However, voluntary organizations argue this can only be done by either employing cheap labour or providing part-time work.

TUC may lift ban on voluntary training

by Richard Garner

The TUC is moving towards lifting its ban on cooperation with voluntary training bodies in the wake of the Government's decision to dismantle the 16 statutory industrial training boards.

After a workshop had discussed the issue at a special TUC conference on industrial training on Tuesday, Mrs Marie Patterson, TUC representative on industrial training boards, said: "The TUC's defence of the training boards and its standing out against participation in voluntary arrangements was right - absolutely right at the time."

"However, it was generally agreed that, given the present circumstances, unions really must protect and expand their members' interests in training and that would mean participation to some extent in voluntary arrangements."

"As one person put it, essentially it is a question of horses for courses. If voluntary training bodies meet the criteria laid down by the TUC, they could be very valuable."

Mr Bill Keys, general secretary of SOGAT the printing union, who chaired the conference, added: "We cannot walk away from the question of training and indeed where the youth stand as far as the future is concerned."



Bill Keys

He said the issues raised by the conference would go before the TUC's education committee and its employment policy and organization committee before being discussed by the general council.

In an opening address to the conference, Mr Ken Graham, assistant general secretary of the TUC, said: "The general council don't depart from their view that voluntary arrangements are second best to statutory ones."

"But they recognize the grave dangers of an institutional vacuum and that unions must seek to represent the interests of their members in the best ways open to them."

Cheap rates at leisure centres

More than 60 per cent of town and city councils offer concessionary rates to unemployed youngsters and adults at their sports and leisure centres, according to a survey by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities on leisure facilities for the unemployed.

It found that most authorities try to encourage the unemployed to get involved in sport; more than one-

third of authorities have cheap entry fees at off-peak times, while one-fifth make no charge at all.

The survey was done following a request from the Trades Union Congress for information about facilities for people out of work. Its findings cover a wide range of activities including volleyball, yoga, cricket and fishing.

THE NOTORIOUS

Dr. SWEET-TOOTH

runs a sleazy bar where he tries to get children 'hooked' on sugary foods. This is a 15 minute schools TV programme, acted entirely by children, that can be seen on ITV in the late evening of 1st or 2nd of September*, with a repeat at 12 noon on Sunday 12th of September. It comes from the Good Health education series for pupils aged 8-12. This preview for teachers and parents which can be recorded for school use

is followed by a 10 minute sequence showing how and why the programme is used in one particular school.

ITV schools transmissions start on September 20th. Full particulars of Good Health, and of all ITV series, can be obtained from the Education Officer of your local ITV company.

*Please see your local TV Times for details.

Courses

BA in Systems Analysis

A unique Business Information Technology course combining organisation studies computing information systems and developing applied skills in business computer systems analysis.

For further details please contact - The Admissions Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Coltham Lane, Frensham, Bristol BS16 1QY, Tel: Bristol (0272) 856281.

GCE SUCCESS

Your first step to success begins when you pass your G.C.E.

Results in the G.C.E. are the key to your future. The G.C.E. is the first step towards a career in a wide range of professions and occupations. It is the first step towards a higher education. It is the first step towards a better life.

For more information contact your local G.C.E. Centre or write to: G.C.E. Information Centre, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

NEWS

The super subs warm up

The phrase "the nearly man" often serves to describe the second-in-command of an organization.

So it might seem apt to apply the epithet to the two men who have just been appointed to the job of deputy general secretary of their respective teachers' organizations - Peter Smith and Nigel de Gruchy.

However, the phrase also carries with it the stigma of the Labour MP who never quite made it to Cabinet rank who was the "hero" of the television series of the same name. In that respect, therefore, it would be wrong to apply the tag to either of these two men - who are both considerably younger than their bosses and must be looking for further advancement in the not too distant future.

The two men also have another similarity - both have been charged with putting over the public face of their respective organizations during the past few years, with Nigel de Gruchy dealing with press liaison for the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, and Peter Smith doing the same job for the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

Both have done the job with considerable flair for picking the apt quotation for summing up a situation. Said Nigel: "My natural tendency is not exactly to exaggerate but to make the dull colourful."

For an official with the NAS/UWT, a union renowned for its "no nonsense" stand of favouring the retention of corporal punishment and for issuing instructions to its members during industrial dispute, Nigel, aged 39, has a surprisingly liberal background.

Born and bred in the Channel Islands, he came to England in 1969 after studying French at the Sorbonne in 1968 - the year of the student riots.

"Foreign students taking French were the only ones taking examinations at that time," he said, "and we had to climb over the barricades to get in."

"I always thought the police handled those demonstrations in a silly way. Here, the police march with the demonstrators but there they say 'now, you can't have a de-

monstration' and stand in a row and block their way. It's just asking for trouble."

Nigel and his American wife, Judy, had planned to go to the United States to work after Nigel's year in Britain taking his PGCE. "However, I was advised - wrongly as it turned out afterwards - that I would have been eligible for the draft for Vietnam had I gone to America at that time and so we stayed in Britain," he said.

He started teaching at St Joseph's Academy in Lewisham - "it was a grammar school but now it's been electrocuted and gone comprehensive" - and he first became active in the union while teaching in London.

He brought up the subject of refusing to cover for absent colleagues - a "ban on ghosting" as it was called at the time - over the fact that two teachers had not been re-placed at his school.

He was elected as London executive member and became honorary general secretary of the London association in 1975 before taking up a full-time union post as Assistant Secretary.

"I haven't missed the classroom one bit," he said. "I've missed the staff-room, though. I enjoyed my teaching in the school - particularly when the school was grammar."

Nigel describes himself as a "middle of the road extremist". "I would have liked to have been a politician but I couldn't find any political party with which I could identify" he said. "I like bits and pieces of all of them so I'm very neutral - extremely neutral, if you like."

That suits the NAS/UWT, though. We're not party political."

His political baptism came during a pre-university spell of teaching in Spain in the early 1960s under the Franco regime. "I decided I wouldn't get myself put in prison," he said, "and that I'd shut up and not express political views. However, when I did talk to people, freely



Nigel de Gruchy Peter Smith

Profile

I was surprised at the number of people who supported Franco. It was about fifty-fifty and most people saw it as a choice of Franco or communism."

He says he will miss the chance of becoming NAS/UWT president through taking on a full-time union role - and this is one thing he regrets. "You have complete freedom of expression for an hour to express your own philosophy as president," he said.

"In my present job, my role is that of a super sub. You're on the sub's bench for most of the time but now and again you're called out on to the field and you hope to score a goal."

Nigel's appointment is likely to accentuate the policy differences between his organization and the National Union of Teachers. He says of them: "I would think there are substantial areas which we can unite on - local defence committees etc. But we've got some fundamental differences. We instruct the NUT urge."

By contrast, Peter Smith, who is

aged 42 and married to the deputy head of a 14 to 18 school in Croydon, South London, started off his working life in banking - but soon became bored with that.

His first teaching job was in a "clapped out" grammar school in Battersea - an area of London to which he was no stranger having taken a Saturday job in a menswear shop in the Old Kent Road in South London while he was at school.

He joined AMMA immediately on starting work as a teacher. "It was a question of inertia selling - not a positive choice," he said. "I'd never heard of it but I looked at my teaching colleagues and thought 'most of these characters are members of it so I might as well join'."

It went to one branch meeting and there were a group of people there who all knew each other and were talking about committees I'd never heard of."

However, on moving to Croydon, he was encouraged by the local executive member to play a more active part in the union and was duly elected branch secretary at the one meeting to which he failed to turn up.

He had worked on magazines - both at Oxford University and at his own school where he was editor and soon became involved with the AMMA's official newspaper, which he says was at the time "a seventh-form magazine - in my opinion professional but rather old-fashioned".

He became a full-time union official in 1974 - a time when he was "waggingly wondering what I was going to do next in my career". "I had thought very seriously about taking up opera production professionally," he said. "At school, I had produced children's operas and we had appeared at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon, and the Queen Elizabeth Hall."

"The last thing I did was to produce a children's work for Granada TV which had been written by

Richard Rodney Bennett.

"It wasn't that I didn't enjoy teaching - you tend to get absorbed in what you're doing at the moment - and in fact one of the nicest compliments ever paid to me was by a schoolboy in the playground."

"I had made reference to the fact that I was married and he said 'Straight up, sir? You're not married. We always reckoned you were a bit of a playboy'. I think it showed me that I spoke the same language as them - after all, I had been brought up in the same area."

"What attracted me to the full-time union job was the negotiation of salaries and conditions of service which I find increasingly fascinating."

"What surprised me when I got the job was the size of the daily post - there were so many individual questions about individual problems. You are always under very considerable pressure to get your answer right."

"I've done a lot of advising members in disciplinary procedures and I'm always very nervous - which I don't think shows particularly."

He says his activities in his school debating society have stood him in good stead for his union work. His new post will still give him the editorship of AMMA's magazine, *Report*, which he hopes to make better researched and more lively. "I don't think there is anything inherently virtuous in boring your audience if you can avoid it," he added.

Peter is of Anglo-Irish descent and counts the playwright Brendan Behan as a distant relative. His great-uncle served a prison sentence for being a Republican and used to teach at a "hedge school" - a primitive open-air school where sons of workmen were taught.

The two men are likely to come into increasing contact with each other on various teachers' organizations' committees over the next few years, and - who knows? - may be the subject of another TES profile in the not too distant future if their careers in the teachers' organizations they represent carry on in the same way as they have started.

Richard Garner

NEWS



Above: Mrs Jean Wilkins looks on as a pupil from St Werburgh's embraces one of the farm ducks. Below: A sheep-shearing demonstration from Mr Ian Sinclair.



A farm for all seasons

The St Werburgh City Farm is a rural enclave in the heart of multi-racial Bristol. Its enthusiastic community association cares for a growing population of sheep, goats, ducks, hens and rabbits.

Since last year, the association has encouraged formal educational links with local primary schools, and teachers who have taken up the offer have discovered it is an invaluable source for practical work of all kinds.

One of the farm's full-time workers, Paul Sander-Jackson, said: "Before the last school year, we met with teachers and discussed ways in which the farm could be used. Out of this, various thoughts emerged. Schools could make 'one off' visits with a class, look around, meet the animals. But generally, most benefit was seen as coming from a regular contact, seeing and experiencing the life of the farm over the cycle of the year, each season bringing its different activities."

Since the farm was started - in April 1981 - it has had fortnightly visits from groups of children at Sefton Park junior school and the Waldorf school. Vegetables and grains were sown, tended and finally harvested. Some of the children also did some brick-laying.

speech being interrupted by the duckling St Werburgh Park nursery school had incubated and hatched; and the creation of a beautiful butterfly garden by some 10-year-olds from Cullior's Brook."

If the educational work of the farm is to be expanded, however, a full-time teacher/coordinator will be needed to organize and supervise school visits.

"Educational resource materials also need to be produced for the different groups using the farm," Paul Sander-Jackson said. "We need tools so that the children can really share in the farm activities; spinning equipment so that they can spin the fleece of the sheep; and a mill to grind the grain they have sown."

"With support and cash, we could readily grow over the next few years, become a part of the local educational community and share our resources with as many inner-city children as possible."

Photographs and report by Helen Tann

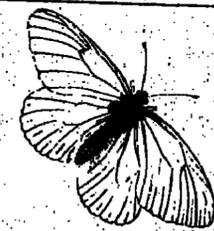
such things as size of visiting groups, and how to manage practical work with eight and nine-year-olds," Paul Sander-Jackson said.

"There have been memorable high spots - going with 10 children to choose a sheep that their school (Sefton Park) was donating to the farm; sheep-shearing watched by 150 children; the retiring nursery headmistress's farewell

Fluttering off to Zambia

Children up to the age of 18 are being encouraged to take part in sponsored butterfly counts this summer by WATCH, the environmental club for young people sponsored by the *Sunday Times* and the Royal Society for Nature Conservation.

An eight day trip to the Luangwa National Park, Zambia is the prize. Details from WATCH, 22 The Green, Nettleham, Lincoln, LN2 2NR, from which further information about the competition can be obtained. Those interested should enclose a 16½p stamp with their address.



SPORT

Kickabouts could be better

The Sports Council has criticized local authorities for faulty design and poor maintenance of many kick-about areas it had helped to provide. In a report on these inter-city sites, it also finds little provision of playing areas for girls.

Since 1976, the council has funded scores of hard-surface areas by up to 50 per cent of the cost to a maximum of £50,000. Designated Areas of Special Need grants, which are awarded on such criteria as population density, unemployment, low socio-economic groupings and a high proportion of the population in the 15 to 25 age range.

A pilot survey of 12 sites, including those in Bradford, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Widnes and Inner London, found "little conscious thought given to safety at the design stage".

Some were sited next to busy roads, and in Liverpool and Bradford, two sites were not enclosed, allowing balls to run on to paths and roads. Where there was enclosure, this was sometimes not high enough.

In Redditch on a site also used by a school, a late switch in design had left the possibility of players accidentally bumping into the flood-lighting columns. While at most sites there was strong concern over drainage, one area at Redditch was covered in five inches of water when visited and at another at Stockton surfaces water formed sheet ice in winter.

Many sites were well maintained and cleaned, the inspectors found, but "poor maintenance was apparent on all five Teesside sites: litter, leaves and mud were seen to be swept away only occasionally both of the Stockton sites frequently became covered in mud transferred from the grass surrounds inside the fencing and the borough council

has acknowledged that this aspect of the design should not be repeated," it said.

The Sports Council concludes that many authorities did not fully consider maintenance or replacement requirements beyond the period of the manufacturer's guarantee. After no more than three years "significant wear and tear was being experienced at several sites". These were worst at Westway and at Coram's Fields, also in London, a site which cost £120,000 to which the Sports Council contributed the maximum £50,000.

The Tartan surfaces at Teesside were found to have been badly laid in some instances, apparently on a wet base. "Dangerous surface bubbling and detachment of large areas have occurred; and at the time of the survey, contractors were rectifying these deficiencies."

Experience showed that line markings were prone to wear away on Tartan, a common complaint from the young users.

Fences were prone to damage and goalposts quickly weakened. If fencing was reinforced or mounted on a rebated wall, this would not only avoid damage but provide watchers with somewhere to sit; the inspectors were reminded by a boy on site.

A survey of users indicated that all but 8 per cent of these were boys and youths. "Girls spent most of

their time waiting, watching and talking." The report comments: "These activities - and swinging on goalposts - were particularly popular with girls probably because little else was provided for them."

Nine out of 10 girls interviewed felt the sites would be better used if more equipment were provided.

Though soccer was being played on 199 out of 323 occasions when sites were visited individual activities such as skipping, handstands and cycling were also important although "their popularity had not been anticipated by the providing authorities".

The most common age of users interviewed was 12 with two-thirds between 8 and 15. Though many claimed to visit the sites every day, most stayed for less than an hour. At two sites the recreational needs of adults have been given preference.

Seven of the sites inspected were completely unsupervised, usually for lack of money. Yet sites with play leaders during school holidays attracted higher levels of use.

The inspectors frequently found grass or even tarmac adjacent to but not part of the kick-about areas was being used for football rather than the sites themselves.

The report comments: "Perhaps because children in cities are accustomed to exploring, establishing their own territory and taking what comes rather than having purpose-built facilities, many continue to play on grass and less comfortable surfaces in preference to kick-about areas."

Bert Lodge

Kick-about areas: providing for sport in areas of special need. The Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1. £1.00.



Above: Children from St Werburgh's Park nursery school throw bread to the farm ducks. Below: A sheep-shearing demonstration from Mr Ian Sinclair.



Hestair Hope and The Times Educational Supplement.

The Brainwave Awards 1982.

A search for new ideas in education.

If you've an innovation for education we want to hear about it. The categories for this year's competition are Mathematics, Aids for the Handicapped, Geography, Home Economics, Reading Aids, Storage and Primary Science.

The overall winner in 1981 was Richard Hubbs, former Head of North Lancing First & Middle School, Lancing, West Sussex. His movable point dice has transparent surfaces and small movable pieces on each face rather than dots, and is an effective device for getting across simple ideas about numbers in a nursery or primary school.

The competition is open to all practising teachers who must be resident in the U.K. Simply send us a photograph, illustration or prototype and a detailed description of your 'Brainwave' together with an entry form. There's no limit to the number of entries you can submit.

£6,000 IN PRIZES

If your idea is commercially viable, there's a good chance Hestair Hope will produce and market it with royalty payments to you in return.

There's over £6,000 in prize money, a trophy for the overall winner plus £1,000 and certificates for all winners and runners-up from each category.

Hestair Hope Limited, St Philip's Drive, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 2AG.

The Times Educational Supplement, Priority House, St. John's Lane, London, EC1M 8BX.

Entry forms and further details can be obtained by telephoning Wendy Percival on 061-652 1411 or simply fill in the coupon below.

The closing date for entries is 15th October 1982.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____
 Telephone: _____

OVERSEAS

United States/Peter David

Senate and the courts tackle prayer, bussing and tax relief

WASHINGTON: Three of the Reagan administration's most controversial policies...



the Treasury some \$2,000m (£1,300m) between 1983 and 1985.

All three measures, together with the abolition of abortion, are high on the administration's "social agenda"...

The Senate opened hearings last week on the president's proposal to amend the US Constitution to legalise prayer in publicly funded schools...

President Reagan announced his intention to propose a constitutional amendment legalizing voluntary prayer last May. He told a reception of religious leaders that "No one will ever convince me that a moment of voluntary prayer will harm a child or threaten a school or state."

But in the senate last week, the proposed amendment sailed into a barrage of criticism, from religious leaders as well as politicians.

The amendment stresses that school prayers would be voluntary. But Mr Nathan Dershowitz, speaking for the American Jewish Congress, told a Senate committee that it was a delusion to believe organized school prayers could ever be voluntary.

"To a child in a classroom, no part of the school routine is voluntary. It cannot be made so by the cruel device of telling them that they are allowed to brand themselves as pariahs by leaving the classroom, or by staying there and remaining conspicuously silent," he said.

The Senate hearings were the first step in what will have to be a long odyssey if the amendment is ever to reach the statute books. Constitutional amendments must be approved by two-thirds of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and ratified by three-quarters of the states.

Meanwhile, another Senate committee is scheduled to begin hearings on President Reagan's plan to introduce tuition tax credits - a system of tax relief for parents who send their children to private schools.

By the time the scheme is fully operational in 1985, parents would be able to recoup up to \$300 (\$295) in tax relief for every child paying private school fees. The White House claims the scheme would cost

federal aid to public education will reduce the amount of federal money per pupil from \$206 last year to \$105 in 1984. At the same time, the credit scheme would boost the average amount of federal aid going to private school pupils from \$43 to \$329.

Even if it ultimately wins approval in Congress, the tuition credit scheme may be challenged in the courts. Opponents of the measure claim that by directing government funds to private schools, many of which are religious institutions, the measure violates the first amendment.

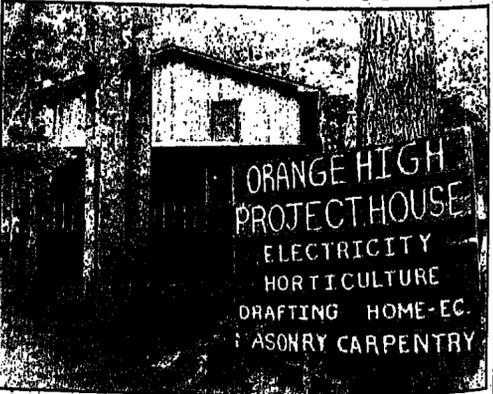
The administration faces equally tangled obstacles in its attempt to reduce the number of compulsory bussing orders, which for a decade and a half have formed the centrepiece of government efforts to desegregate schools in the United States.

In a reversal of its familiar role as a champion of bussing orders, the government's Justice Department filed papers this month opposing the extension of a bussing order in the East Baton Rouge parish of Louisiana.

The department's brief describes bussing as a "failed experiment" which erodes community support for public education. It claims bussing has provoked a flight of white pupils from public education and resulted in the segregation of the very schools it was intended to integrate.

In addition to ordering the change of policy within the Justice Department, the Reagan Administration has supported efforts by Congress to impose legal limits on the ability of the courts to order bussing as a remedy for segregation.

According to the study, cuts in



Students at Orange High School, Hillsborough, North Carolina, put their vocational skills to practical use. They have just completed building a six-room, two bathroom, solar heated house which will shortly be sold. This is the sixteenth house to be built by the students. The first was paid for out of school funds, since then they have been self-financing. The solar house project received a \$3000 grant from the North Carolina Energy Institute, which is anxious to promote solar energy in the state.

Brazil/Patrick Knight

First woman minister faces hot issues

SAO PAULO: Senhorita Betha de Figueiredo Ferraz, Brazil's first woman minister of state, has taken over the education portfolio from General Ruben Ludwige, who had been minister for 21 months.

For the past few years Senhorita Ferraz has been director of higher education at the ministry, and has just resigned after 12 years on the National Education Council, the main advisory body to the minister. She says her greatest concern is pre-school education, which has become a priority here in recent years.

The previous minister was very close to General Joao Figueiredo, the President of Brazil, and because of his close links with power, was able to win more funds for education at a time of general stringency, including obtaining big salary rises for teachers.

General Ludwige also tackled administration problems within a ministry which had suffered a serious lack of continuity, with ministers lasting on average just over a year.

He reduced the number of departments from 223 to 176, and streamlined programmes.

The new minister, who says that in principle she is in favour of students paying for education, although not in the present period of financial difficulty, faces several hot issues. One is recognition of the National

Union of Students, which, although illegal for more than a decade, has started to function de facto in the past few years. Its meetings have been tolerated by the authorities, who do not want to provoke a confrontation with students.

Another issue is literacy. Despite continuing programmes, the total number of illiterates has continued to rise, but Senhorita Ferraz has said the programmes must continue, as seven million children still do not attend school, and need assistance.

She says she plans to visit four parts of Brazil in the near future, to study problems at first hand.

OVERSEAS

Malta/Carl Slevin

Three-point pledge averts dismissal for 'rebel' strikers

A dispute involving teachers in Malta has been settled after they signed a declaration drawn up by the island's Prime Minister, Mr Dom Mintoff.



Dom Mintoff ... his declaration accepted

The dispute centred on the suspension of 55 teachers including Mr Alfred Buhagiar, the president of the teachers' union, the Movement of United Teachers.

The teachers had faced disciplinary proceedings for taking part in a 24-hour stoppage in June called by the opposition Nationalist Party.

Malta's disciplinary board was due to meet in August until Mr Mintoff offered an eleventh-hour solution. The declaration was sent by letter to the teachers involved who were asked to sign it.

The declaration asked the teachers, who in striking had acted independently of their union, to:

- Admit they were wrong to strike
Understand not to engage in civil disobedience against the democratically-elected government again
Accept half-pay for the period between the strike and the signing of the declaration instead of dismissal
The declaration had to be signed on the day it appeared (except for

university staff who were allowed an extra day), and assumed that the disciplinary boards would have found all the defendants guilty and would have recommended dismissal.

This seemed quite likely given that other public service employees who faced their disciplinary boards earlier were all dismissed. The Nationalist Party campaign arose from the constitutional crisis following last December's disputed general election result.

New Zealand/Lindsay Hayes

MP's Bill seeks to abolish the cane

WELLINGTON: A Private Member's Bill seeking the abolition of corporal punishment in schools will be introduced to Parliament by the Labour MP for Southern Maori, Mrs Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan.

She is the patron of CAFE, the Campaign Against Violence in Education and her Bill seeks a change to the 1964 Education Act which permits schools to use corporal punishment.

CAVE's campaign to ban the strap and cane in schools accelerated last year following the disclosure that a secondary boys college principal had video-taped caning as an experiment to find out why experienced teachers often missed the target and left boys with embarrassing marks on their buttocks.

CAVE said the incident confirmed members' fears of the sort of abuse they suspected went on in schools.

Many teacher members of CAFE are members of the Post-Primary Teachers Association, which although against corporal punishment in principle, is reluctant to see it abolished completely, until alternative punishment methods are devised.

Despite preventative measures which are reported to be successful in helping combat school vandalism, the problem remains serious and the costs high.

Vandalism in schools has cost the education department \$4.7 million in the past three years, with the 1981-82 cost (£1.8 million) up \$225,000 on the previous year.

During the past two years the department has spent \$355,000 on preventing vandalism - trying everything from professional security patrols to school at risk, to environmental subsidies to help schools spruce themselves up and so deter vandals.

Turkey/Bernard Kennedy

Exam results cancelled by bribes inquiry

ANKARA: More than 7,000 exam results have been nullified and 4,000 diplomas removed as a result of a massive inquiry into corruption in the Turkish education system.

Judicial investigations have also been opened into the cases of nearly 500 teachers alleged to have encouraged or abetted malpractice in middle school and college exams.

According to a statement issued by the Education Ministry, exam results have been annulled not only in school leaving or college certificate examinations but at almost every level of secondary and further education.

It appears that corruption is also rife in teacher training institutions, and 283 candidate teachers have been removed from their posts because of irregularities in examinations they had previously passed.

In addition to the 500 teachers and lecturers subject to judicial investigations, another 500 cases are being looked into by the Ministry and disciplinary measures have been taken against more than 200.

The inquiry has taken many months and has had the full support of the military authorities who assumed power nearly two years ago determined among other things to wipe out corruption in public life. But they have found it a very difficult task.

As far as the schools are concerned, it is common knowledge that many parents are prepared to reward teachers to the tune of, say, the equivalent of a month's wages for ensuring the success of their son or daughter in school leaving examinations or the annual tests which permit a pupil to progress to a higher grade.

The great importance given by employers and society to educational success encourages this practice, as does the overriding emphasis on exam results at all levels of Turkish education.

Chris Mosey looks at the decline in foreign language standards in Sweden English spoken here . . . just

STOCKHOLM: Swedish children no longer speak English as well as they used to - and that's official.

A report to the National Board of Education (Skolöverstyrelsen) warns that standards have declined drastically in upper secondary schools and that a whole generation of children is being educated in "tourist-English" only.

While the average Swedish teenager can ask the way to Trafalgar Square or complain that his television has been struck by lightning, he has a hard time reading a simple English newspaper article, according to secondary school inspector, Miss May Mattsson, who compiled the report.

She estimates that nine out of ten Swedish teenagers have trouble with their English.

Miss Mattsson blames the decline in standards on the teaching profession. Teachers do not demand enough from their pupils, she says, and warns of a decline in the ability of present trainee teachers, "which will be felt long into the next century."

Mrs Ulla Tillander, schools minister, admits standards have declined but has reservations about Miss Mattsson's report.

She said: "Taken internationally, Sweden is well to the fore when it

comes to excellence in English. But I know of university lecturers complaining about the poor standard of English of teenagers coming direct from school."

Mr Rune Bergentoft, of the NBE, spent three years studying language supervision in 14 countries for the Council of Europe. "Compared with other countries, we have good standards in Sweden," he said.

Meanwhile the debate has been given added impetus by, of all things, a milk packet. The Arla Dairy Company, in conjunction with the National Tourist Board, printed a text headed "Welcome to Sweden" on its packets this summer.

It was intended to welcome and give advice to English-speaking tourists but was riddled with grammatical errors and spelling mistakes.

"Woods on fire causes tremendous damage," it warned. "We have to keep the nature tidy and we have to respect each other as well as the nature and the animals. Thrown away beer-cans are for instance causing damages on reaping machines for enormous costs."

And it offered the following advice: "If you want to know more about where you can put your caravan turn to

the Tourist Informations." There was also a reference to "special traffic routes", and advice on how to "eat cheap."

In an article in the main Stockholm daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter, Mrs Ingrid Nettervik took the Arla company and the Tourist Council to task. "An official institution like the Tourist Council should have known better," she wrote.

Mr James Watling, press attaché at the British Embassy and cultural attaché Mr Raymond Adlam revised the milk packet text for Dagens Nyheter, who published it with the advice that parents should cut it out and glue it over the original before their children were corrupted.

As a footnote many foreigners living in Sweden and attempting to speak Swedish are frequently infuriated by Swedes replying in English. The trait so angered one American that he replied: "Jag forstar inte Jag ar fakiskt Jugoslav (I don't understand, I am, in fact, Yugoslavian)."

Fortunately, he never encountered a Swede with a perfect grasp of Serbo-Croat. But it just goes to show you cannot always believe what you hear or read on milk packets.

Nigeria dissatisfied with its colonial education inheritance

Nigerians who read their daily newspapers carefully will already know that September is to see the transition from the present five year secondary school course to a new two-tiered system.

The so-called "three plus three", comprising three years junior secondary and three years senior secondary, is designed to provide a more "functional" education than the present five-year system.

Most Nigerian schools have no workshop facilities and no equipment for the crafts, science or technical work involved in the new arrangements. Nor do they have the instructors: many technical schools merit the name only by the presence of one technical drawing teacher.

At a time of economic cutbacks, when many state governments have been unable even to pay teachers' salaries, principals and teachers are critical of the federal government's decision to go ahead with the scheme.

Politicians and officials in the ministries argue, however, that the new system is to be phased in gradually, starting with the new intake in 1982, so that there are still three years before the expected great influx into technical colleges and vocational training centres.

This does not explain how another problem is to be solved - that of absorbing the first products of the Universal Primary Education programme, which began in 1976, who will now be swelling the ranks

of those clamouring for post-primary education.

The third National Development Plan (1975-1980) recommended that the states should aim at a transition rate of children (going from primary to post-primary schools) of 70 per cent increasing to 100 per cent as soon as possible. However, in 1981 the transition rate in some northern states was reported closer to 40 per cent.

The new scheme was considered in the 1960s by educationists and politicians seeking to throw off the system inherited from the colonial administration. With its heavy emphasis on mental and verbal skills, the "British" schools were said to churn out "catechists, clerks and interpreters" and little else.

In 1975, the Third National Plan complained that the growth of the country's economy had been hindered by the lack of qualified personnel in agriculture, commerce and industry.

As a result, the 1977 National Policy on Education proposed the scheme to take effect next month.

The entire admission/assessment mechanism will have to be overhauled. Those who pass the common entrance from primary school will do three years of basic training in a wide range of subjects in the junior school, and then will sit a government exam to determine their ability to continue in an academic programme. Dorothy Wade

Ireland/John Walshe

Public sector pay freeze

DUBLIN: Teachers and other public sector employees are being asked to accept a pay freeze until next January.

The teachers were due to receive a 5 per cent increase in October as part of a national agreement between the previous government and the public sector unions.

But the Government argues that if the current budget deficit is to be reduced a pay freeze is essential. Although there is widespread demand for a curtailment of public spending, the unions are expected to oppose the pay policy.

Primary and secondary teaching will still, however, be exempted from an embargo on the filling of vacancies which will continue until at least March 31 1983. This embargo requires that two out of every three vacancies must be left vacant.

Sri Lanka/D B Udulagama

Computers hold key to future

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Foreign Investment Approval Committee has backed the setting up of a new English language secondary school, the Colombo International School.

The school, which opens next month, is being established as an extra facility for the international community and it will provide education leading to London University's O and A level examinations.

It will also provide evening courses for Sri Lankans in computing studies.

Sri Lanka is placing great emphasis on computing studies. An education spokesman is quoted as saying that most of today's parents are not familiar with computers. However, their children - whether in industry, science, government or education - will have to be able to use computers.

All students at the new school will be obliged to follow computer courses.

The school's vice principal is Susan Kingdon Lindsey, an honours graduate in English Literature and American Literature from Sussex University.

There is already an overseas school in Colombo which caters for the children of foreign diplomatic personnel and expatriates and a few Sri Lankan schoolchildren.

Advertisement for the Times Educational Supplement, listing various features like 'influential 178 adj.', 'supplement increment 36 n.', and 'Do words fail you when the staffroom copy goes missing?'.

Do words fail you when the staffroom copy goes missing?

It need never happen again. Just fill in the coupon below applying for a year's subscription to The Times Educational Supplement and you will receive a copy of the very latest Roget's Thesaurus absolutely free of charge. This handsome hardback volume specially bound for the Times Educational Supplement contains 1300 pages with thousands of clear and concise definitions of words and phrases in current usage. The recommended retail price is £7.95.

Please send the coupon together with your cheque for £27.50 to the address below.

This offer applies to new subscribers in the U.K. only.

Subscription coupon form with fields for Name, Address, Signature, Date, and Cheque details.

Advertisement for 'IT'S NUTRITION: food for health and enjoyable living' by Patty Fisher, including details about the book's content and price.

LETTERS

Symptom of the primary-level plight

Sir - Three articles on the Primary and Pre-school page of August 13 neatly illustrate the present serious plight of primary education.

"Bishop Grosseteste receives list rites" is a leading many educationists have secretly expected ever since the Government first began to swing its axe.

I suggest the Joseph/Boyson duo were only too relieved that Grosseteste remained a small mono-technic without a PGCE course, for therein was sufficient excuse for its closure. The embarrassing fact is that it is a very successful college, and one which I would enthusiastically recommend to any sixth-former seeking a worthwhile teacher training.

As nine out of ten of its students obtain posts upon leaving, it would probably increase in popularity, and it seems the duo do not want that occurring. Why not?

The brief comment about "Self-expression sets goals too high" and the claim made by Dr Edward Norman at the McWhirter memorial lecture presents the answer.

"Self-expression", "Child-centred education", and associated trends are "out" for the Black Paperists seem to have won the day, and I have a sinister feeling that the underlying reason for shutting the doors of such a college as Bishop Grosseteste is that it is a lingering reminder of the progressive attitudes Rhodes Boyson fought so valiantly in the late 1960s.

Undoubtedly there are still progressive schools, good advisers, and an attempt to promote visionary primary education. But Angela Anning's article "Lessons from life" indicates how far primary education has slipped in both aims and accomplishment. Dealing with the need to replace children's diet of "artificial problems abstracted on to worksheets", I suspect her article is the type that The TES would not have considered interesting 10 years ago.

This is no criticism of Angela Anning's contribution, but a means of pointing out that what she is revealing is a process that thousands of teachers practised anyway, a mode promoted by the old teacher training colleges, and still supported

by such places as Bishop Grosseteste.

Rather than presenting an inspiring spur to the new year ahead, the page of articles reads more as an obituary to what might have been and almost was.

Quite a few lecturers in teacher training institutions may not be too sad to see the passing of the principles promoted by Bishop Grosseteste, or Dr Norman's attack on self-expression, or Angela Anning's need to defend an education related to a child's interest.

Bishop Grosseteste serves big area

Sir - The intention of the Department of Education to close down teacher training at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln (TES, August 13) must be fought off. Regardless of the national requirements for newly trained teachers, this college must be kept open to provide a wide area with much needed and much appreciated in-service training facilities.

If Bishop Grosseteste is not allowed to retain its initial training

The dreadful thought is, however, that the Government's surge of interest in a PGCE teacher training for primary schools offers a tremendous opportunity to virtually write out any real involvement with such issues as "open learning", "creative work" and "child-centred approach".

PETER DIXON Lecturer in education King Alfred's College of Higher Education Winchester

Status, not issues

Sir - Perhaps you will permit me to respond to the letter from Charles Finnam and Norman Stephenson published in The TES on August 6. Although I am not named in that letter I must assume that I am the subject of their dismay.

It would appear that your correspondents have responded hastily to the letter I wrote (TES, July 23) concerning the status of a paper written by a group of lecturers in this school of education, for I cannot believe that as senior lecturers they would read that letter with so little comprehension of the substance it contained.

My sole purpose in writing to you was to make clear to your readers the status of the paper in institutional terms. As your issue of July 9 implied that the document had already been published as an occasional paper from this school, when it had not, it was important to acknowledge any demand from your readership for the purchase of a non-existent publication. Indeed, your own heading to my letter ("paper status") indicated that you understood that the message I was promulgating concerned institutional status rather than personal comment on the academic issues involved in the paper.

The only way I could see to do that was to "go out of my way" publicly to make a statement. I therefore call upon your correspondents Finnam and Stephenson to read the letter again and to make clear to me at what point I "discredit the work of my colleagues" in other than institutional terms. Failing that I would expect a public apology - purely in the interests of academic freedom, of course!

JEFF THOMPSON Professor and Head of School of Education University of Bath

Unlucky review

Sir - Friday the 13th seems to have been rather an unlucky day for your reviewer Hugh David. He started his review of 16+ English by getting wrong not only the name of the author but also that of the publisher. Then, presumably unconscious of the irony, he went on to imply that sections of the book (the ones dealing with areas like spelling and reading skills) were not "really relevant." For the record, 16+ English was written by M Baber and published by Stanley Thornes.

By the way Mr David, I hesitate to mention it, but there are other examining boards besides the London GCE Board, and there are other modes of assessment besides final examinations. You don't even need to look north of Watford!

Recently taught AEB Mode 3 O level English Language in London itself. And to write a review of 16+ English without once referring to the JMB in conjunction with neighbouring CSE boards, and now attracting over 60,000 candidates a year.

Still, you did get one bit right. Yes, there is a "living, breathing language", and it is examination English. It was to try and bridge the gap between English was written!

MIKE BABER 34 Beech Hill Road Sheffield 10

Blacks fear effect of Denning ruling

Sir - The National Convention of Black Teachers, an umbrella organization of nine already affiliated black teachers' associations throughout the country, is deeply disturbed at the recent ruling of Lord Denning that the refusal of a headmaster to allow admission to a Sikh boy unless he cut his hair and removed his turban, contrary to beliefs and principles of Sikhism, was not unfair and discriminatory.

We believe that this Appeal Court ruling and its unfair criticism of the Commission of Racial Equality have brought British justice into disrepute and given comfort and succour to those in the society who are opposed to a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-religious society.

We, the classroom teachers, are fully aware of the difficulties that we face every day in making multi-cultural education work successfully and Lord Denning's ruling would create further difficulties in this field. For multi-cultural education (at present most of the I.E.s are committed to such education) to suc-

ceed, it is necessary that white people in authority understand and respect black culture and customs. The refusal of the headmaster of Park Grove School is a clear indication that he falls short of this appreciation. The "uniform rule" in a school is neither essential nor sacrosanct to maintain discipline. The British army in India proved this point beyond any dispute when it relaxed its rule in favour of the Sikhs.

We are apprehensive that Lord Denning's ruling will encourage and give credence to those - fortunately still in the minority - in the black community who are campaigning for separate schools for different ethnic groups and the Denning ruling will strengthen their position in convincing most black people that the present British system is failing them.

RADHIKA R RAY Coordinating secretary National Convention of Black Teachers Pinner, Middlesex

Respect for the turban tradition

Sir - Twelve years ago I taught in a boys' comprehensive school which had pupils from various races. There were a number of Sikh boys who wore the turban. None of the teachers whom I knew objected to their doing so, and indeed would have been ashamed to show themselves so prejudiced.

What has happened in the meantime? Last year in Wolverhampton and this year in Birmingham head teachers have refused permission to boys wearing the turban to attend their schools. In both cases the boys' parents sought redress under the law and in both cases were the losers. The fact that one of the schools is independent should have nothing to do with the case. In my view there is no valid reason why the turban should not be allowed to be worn in this country anywhere in any circumstances by persons of this religious persuasion.

The situation appears incredible when one considers how in earlier years the turban was incorporated into regimental uniforms so that Sikhs could be enlisted in the service of the British Empire. One hears much about tradition on the lips of headmasters but some of them have precious little respect for traditions other than their own.

But Lord Denning has just ruled that since discrimination against the turban is religious discrimination, not racial, it does not come under the remit of the Race Relations Act.

Personally I would dissociate myself from the stand which these headmasters took, which seems to be pig-headed and myopic in the extreme. Can we expect that from now on teachers who object to the turban in their schools will feel encouraged to outlaw the offending garment from British schools altogether?

MALCOLM VERRALL 81 Wynn Road Penn Wolverhampton

Training change

Sir - Having recently completed a post-graduate certificate in education course, I read with interest about the Department of Education's proposals to change teacher training (TES, August 6).

No doubt change is necessary: university departments of education are churning out far too many students, often with a mediocre class of degree, and certainly only a pitiful teaching experience, onto a job market that cannot possibly absorb them all.

The DES proposals go some way to alleviate this problem, but perhaps not far enough. Prospective teachers would be far better trained if the POCE year was spent completely in different schools. After all, it is only rarely during teaching practices that one comes to grips with the job of teaching; the larger part of the year is wasted in discussion often very petty, which relates little to the classroom.

Moreover, such a training would give students a clearer picture of teaching, and might serve to put off the seemingly large proportion of students for whom the PGCE course is just a "year off".

C. DAVIES 86 Wellington Road Brixton, London SW9

Duty to serve

Sir - David Peck's propensity to ride his hobby horse creates its own confusion ("Saving the young from the jobs holocaust", TES, August 13).

The role of the Careers Service Inspectorate is quite clear. Its purpose is to help local education authorities improve the quality of performance of their careers services. My inspectors would certainly be quite "out of place" (which I understand to be David Peck's definition of "inept" in this context) if they

concerned themselves with the quality of general education or training provision. I would like your readers to know of this interpretation, since, on the basis of common usage, they might think that David Peck was making a judgment on the work of my inspectors.

R H WOODCOCK Chief Inspector Careers Service Department of Employment Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1

County cars

Sir - In Richard Garner's article about the provision of a car for the deputy leader of the Wexham Education Authority (TES, August 6) you indicated that Hampshire rule provide chauffeur driven cars for members and officers. They are required to use public transport or their own cars for official duties. The county does not own any chauffeur-driven cars for purposes such as these and only hires cars exceptionally to meet special requirements. This is regarded here as the most cost-effective way of dealing with the situation.

L K ROBINSON Chief Executive Hampshire

Tedium rare

Sir - There is an old saying that "those who can, do; those who cannot, teach". To this Mr Peter Newsam (as reported in The TES) adds a sadly contemporary note when he avers that teachers support the dunder candidates for appointment or promotion. By "teachers" he clearly means ordinary members of school staffs now accorded the extra role of school governors, rather than those heads who have long been responsible for appointments and promotions within their respective schools or colleges. Yet it must be remembered that these heads themselves are teachers, imbued with the same attitudes and many of the interests which characterize those members of the profession who do not yet have administrative authority. If Mr Newsam is right, what a desperate situation we are in when dullness becomes the primary condition for acceptance and professional success.

But this is not the end of the matter. Teachers are not only concerned with their professional advancement; they also teach. If Mr Newsam is right, must not the dullness which secures appointment be reflected in the way successful applicants approach their classes, the attitudes and values which they reveal to children, the actual preferences which they show when recommending our sons and daughters for first employment or college entrance? Teachers have immense power over the lives of children and if they themselves are dull or mediocre, how can they possibly do other than encourage dullness and mediocrity among the young? How can they encourage, reward, or even recognize brightness and energy in children if they do not themselves possess these qualities in abundance?

Is Mr Newsam right? Sadly, my own experience in schools and colleges, as a professional scientist and as a father leads me to believe that



Peter Newsam

he is not only correct in general terms, but has laid an unerring finger on a central factor - perhaps the central factor - underlying the educational malaise so often reported in The TES and elsewhere in recent years. The stress suffered by so many heads (and other teachers) that they seek early retirement in an already early-retiring profession, the lack of new ideas occasioned by too lengthy occupation of the same appointment (especially the same senior appointment) in the same school, the endless complaints as teachers rail against the demands of the work they chose and against the nature of the syllabi which lie in their hands to interpret according to their own abilities and knowledge, the resentment expressed by children against schools, and the teaching process and the contempt with which they often view teachers and subjects alike, parental concerns over academic standards, employers' concerns over the inability of school leavers to do a worthwhile day's

work - are not all these ills to be seen as the outward expression of inner dullness, of children taught (perhaps resentfully on both sides) by those who cannot do, for whom the classroom is a refuge?

I teach as a preferred way of life, because I like schools with style, because I find it easy and enjoyable work, above all because I find it fun. But as a training college lecturer I seldom encountered students who wanted to teach. Most reasons for entering the profession centred on long holidays and secure pensionable employment. As a teacher I have rarely met colleagues who gave a clear impression of liking either children or classroom work. As a university professor I regularly heard teachers comment that one or other aspect of modern knowledge would be beyond the grasp of their classes - while left to themselves the children mastered the central ideas with ease! As a scientist I have been amazed at the ineffectiveness of science education in public and private sectors alike. And as a parent I deplore the dismal and uncaring attitudes which my children have encountered too often in their lives already.

No doubt Mr Newsam's remarks will induce ire among members of the teaching profession. Some, perhaps, will be moved to complacency. But I do hope that he is heard, and heard most clearly. In this century education has been rooted in the strengths and foibles, virtues and oddities, intelligence, inventiveness and flamboyance, the utter lack of dullness of our Victorian predecessors (dare I mention Arnold of Rugby?). It is tragic to realize that education in the next century may find its roots in our complaints and argument, our mediocrity and - dullness!

DAVID C ARNOLD 8 East Street Ashburton Devon

Grant puzzle

Sir - I wonder if readers can explain why it is possible to obtain a grant for a one-year postgraduate teaching qualification after receiving a grant for a three-year degree course and yet, apparently, it is not possible to obtain a grant for even one year of a three-year degree course after receiving a grant for a three-year teaching qualification.

M. ROBINSON 306 Droydsden Road Manchester 10

Second class

Sir - As secretary of the Wexham branch and vice-chairman of the Clwyd federation of the Professional Association of Teachers, I should like to comment upon Sarah Bayliss's article on women teachers' attitudes towards promotion, published in The TES on July 30.

Following our recent conference in London, our council will now be considering how the association can improve the promotional prospects for women and campaign against discrimination in education. As an organization which rightly puts the needs of the child first, we are concerned that children may be disadvantaged in those schools where only men have positions of responsibility.

I am a member of a committee set up by Clwyd education authority to consider sex discrimination in secondary schools, and am personally most concerned at the trend locally. When I qualified 18 years ago, a female teacher leaving college could have as much expectation of becoming a head teacher as any young man qualifying with her. There were as many girls' schools as boys. One sad effect of the coeducation system in Clwyd is that a young woman teacher, entering employment in this county today, can have little expectation of becoming a headmistress, regardless of the quality of her teaching or her expertise in administration. There are no female head teachers in any of Clwyd's comprehensive schools.

Equal opportunities legislation has operated against women in education, as there have been some schools in Clwyd which no longer have the once statutory senior mistress in charge of girls' welfare. A man has been appointed to this post.

I do not wish to suggest by this that Clwyd is less sensitive than other I.E.s to the employment prospects of women. On the contrary, many of our educational officials are most sympathetic - hence the setting up of this committee. This is, however, a nationwide problem. I write of Clwyd merely because it is the county I know best.

Mrs Frances Morrell, deputy leader of the Inner London Education Authority, has commented that few women apply for senior positions. I do not find this surprising. A candidate for a headship must have experience of timetabling to succeed. A recent survey in our county revealed that not one woman in state secondary education here has full responsibility for the school timetable. How can a woman therefore feel qualified to apply for a headship?

Very few women in this county achieve a position nowadays above Scale 3, and even that is traditionally for pastoral rather than academic responsibility. Those who do break the equality barrier have often had to work twice as hard as their male counterparts. In my own school, where the pastoral system employs a year head and assistant year head in the five year groups, there will be in September only one woman year head and two assistants, although women outnumber men by 30 per cent. The head teacher, the head of pastoral care, the head of lower school, the head of upper school are all men, and this is by no means exceptional.

I am concerned for the many children who come from one parent homes, where the mother has the position of authority. Where, increasingly, a woman teacher has to defer to a man, the position of women in society is diminished, and children come to expect that men have the monopoly of administrative wisdom.

A profession which seeks to show example to the young should not be responsible for treating 50 per cent of them as second class.

Fewer and fewer girls are attempting to break into traditionally "male" subject areas in this county. Since many of them must be future breadwinners for their families, I am concerned that they are being taught not to try to open doors, and I am grateful to belong to a union which cares about this.

VERA DARBY Nant Uchaf Farm Ffrith Nr Wrexham

Head-baiting

Sir - What an interesting book review by Richard Pring "Children's rights: a philosophical study" (TES July 30). The first and last paragraphs of Richard's review were enough to strike fear into the hearts of the most hardened of head teachers. I don't know the head teacher of the school that his daughter attends, but I bet the head teacher's wife had the brandy ready after the last governors' meeting.

I remember meeting Richard Pring and Hugh Sockett when they were shaping their philosophical scalps at the Cambridge Institute of Education in the early 1970s. They were much admired and had few serious challengers in their field. It's good to see that Richard has now progressed to the upper echelons of head teacher-baiting.

My own experience of governors' meetings over a number of years is that they can often become hotbeds of apathy; so, I'm not sure whether to be envious of the head teacher in question, or whether to quietly count my blessings. My real worry is that governing bodies may see in this episode an indication of a hierarchy of importance when compiling agendas for future governors' meetings.

One wonders just how much it might be in a child's interest, or in the interest of the rest of the children in a middle school, if a head teacher and his governors were to create time, during a meeting of the governing body, for a detailed philosophical exposé of how generally accepted school rules regarding dress may, in some circumstances, appear to conflict with a right of individual children to wear clothing items of their own choice. The accompanying discussion may well turn out to be mentally stimulating and invigorating for those involved, particularly if Richard Pring is present, but may seem, upon reflection, to have little more than debating value when compared with some of the other questions facing schools in the present educational and economic context.

PETER L BIRKS Headmaster Swilth Wells RC School English Herts

Oral games

Sir - I read with interest Barrie Wade's "Skipping the Words" (TES, August 6). His account of children's traditional games demonstrates once more that, in school intervals if not on city streets, the oral culture of childhood is alive as well. The same point is made in my book, possibly unfamiliar to English readers, entitled Out to Play (Aberdeen University Press, 1980, £6).

A whole new profession of play-leaders is being created on the untested assumption that children have lost the ability to amuse themselves. Teaching games to children can damage their play. Granted that adults may be useful in connection with sports, or with equipment-based adventure activities, the point remains that traditional games, rhymes and jokes are characterised by their silliness, sociability and secrecy. Even to discuss such fragile artifacts in class is awkward and interfering.

Barrie Wade wants his investigations to be useful, in this case to aid early reading. Apart from the practical difficulty that under-eights are relatively insecure in the play culture (which flourishes in middle childhood) he seems to be seduced by the idea that work and play are much the same.

ALASDAIR ROBERTS Aberdeen College of Education Hilton Place Aberdeen

Word play

Sir - So Barry Wade thinks "the games children say" are ignored in games children say? Are ignored in teaching reading? Far from it, when the teacher uses the language experience learning-to-read method.

Infants' drawings and paintings record their activities. They learn to read the relevant captions written by the teacher, at their dictation. Having begun with captions like "We played Poor Jenny's weeping" and "We like playing Teddy bear, Teddy bear", they need little encouragement to include in their newswriting longer quotation from the words of skipping and singing games.

LUCILLE JAMES 16 Nelson Road Wimbledon SW19

People and posts

Sir - How refreshing it is to learn that the Leicestershire County Council has approved a term's sabbatical leave for teachers so as to update skills and to integrate with other schools and colleagues on in-service work (TES, August 13).

What disturbs me is that the head teacher should appoint a senior member of staff to the post of professional teacher tutor. It is high time

that these posts of responsibilities are filled by existing senior teachers in schools, who are qualified and experienced for them.

A democratic means of selection should be set up, consisting of a consultative body made up of people such as heads and advisers.

JACQUELINE REID 7 Rivoisfort Avenue Wembley Middlesex



Class and race

Sir - As a teacher and parent myself, I can understand both groups' reluctance to participate in research into black children's exam success. Obviously before attempting any "affirmative action" one must know what factors are causing the relative lack of success of black (particularly West Indian) children.

However, don't we know already? Haven't a mass of research been done into the lack of success of working-class children? Did it not point to exactly those factors which the Swain Committee wanted to examine - namely family background, health etc.

And is it not largely true to say that although some Asian and African immigrants, when they came to this country were - middle class, almost all the West Indian ones were given employment which would categorize them as working class?

Given that, what is this research for? If West Indian parents want to be told how to bring up their children, they will no doubt sponsor their own research project. Or

perhaps the committee was looking for a racial explanation of exam success.

Public money would be far better spent on research into making the education of all working class children more effective.

Mrs A L MALLETT 38 Beaconfield Road London N15

Helping blacks

Sir - Those who say that racism is the main cause of underachievement of black children do not seem to consider the fact that Asian children do very well in our schools, yet they are exposed to as much or possibly even more racism than black children. If we refuse to investigate why some black and many Asian children succeed academically, we deprive ourselves of the possible means of helping the majority of black children.

PETER PRAGER 17 Roy Gardens Ilford Essex

Voucher danger

Sir - The superficial theorising of Montagu Seldon about education vouchers (TES, August 6) ignores, either through naivety or choice, the actual effects of vouchers in the real world.

She admits that the maintained sector would have less money, and accepts that there would be a massive move to the private sector. Anyone who can see a step further

will realise that it will be the articulate and influential parents who will opt out of the maintained sector, leaving it more defenceless still.

Then, presumably, the voucher value will be inflated away without any opposition from the maintained sector.

Even if we accept the rigid separation into educational "haves" and "have-nots" there is no guarantee that the privileged private sector will raise standards or increase

choice. Thinking people involved in the education service realise the need for more imaginative teaching. Since the public has accepted the "Black Paper" analysis of schooling, it seems likely that the new private system would perpetuate the anachronistic, narrow, academically-dominated education of all else.

MICHAEL HURDLE 6 Porting Road Woking, Surrey

LETTERS

Blacks fear effect of Denning ruling

Sir - The National Convention of Black Teachers, an umbrella organization of nine already affiliated black teachers' associations throughout the country, is deeply disturbed at the recent ruling of Lord Denning that the refusal of a headmaster to allow admission to a Sikh boy unless he cut his hair and removed his turban, contrary to beliefs and principles of Sikhism, was not unfair and discriminatory.

We believe that this Appeal Court ruling and its unfair criticism of the Commission of Racial Equality have brought British justice into disrepute and given comfort and succour to those in the society who are opposed to a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-religious society.

We, the classroom teachers, are fully aware of the difficulties that we face every day in making multi-cultural education work successfully and Lord Denning's ruling would create further difficulties in this field. For multi-cultural education (at present most of the I.E.s are committed to such education) to suc-

ceed, it is necessary that white people in authority understand and respect black culture and customs. The refusal of the headmaster of Park Grove School is a clear indication that he falls short of this appreciation. The "uniform rule" in a school is neither essential nor sacrosanct to maintain discipline. The British army in India proved this point beyond any dispute when it relaxed its rule in favour of the Sikhs.

We are apprehensive that Lord Denning's ruling will encourage and give credence to those - fortunately still in the minority - in the black community who are campaigning for separate schools for different ethnic groups and the Denning ruling will strengthen their position in convincing most black people that the present British system is failing them.

RADHIKA R RAY Coordinating secretary National Convention of Black Teachers Pinner, Middlesex

Respect for the turban tradition

Sir - Twelve years ago I taught in a boys' comprehensive school which had pupils from various races. There were a number of Sikh boys who wore the turban. None of the teachers whom I knew objected to their doing so, and indeed would have been ashamed to show themselves so prejudiced.

What has happened in the meantime? Last year in Wolverhampton and this year in Birmingham head teachers have refused permission to boys wearing the turban to attend their schools. In both cases the boys' parents sought redress under the law and in both cases were the losers. The fact that one of the schools is independent should have nothing to do with the case. In my view there is no valid reason why the turban should not be allowed to be worn in this country anywhere in any circumstances by persons of this religious persuasion.

The situation appears incredible when one considers how in earlier years the turban was incorporated into regimental uniforms so that Sikhs could be enlisted in the service of the British Empire. One hears much about tradition on the lips of headmasters but some of them have precious little respect for traditions other than their own.

But Lord Denning has just ruled that since discrimination against the turban is religious discrimination, not racial, it does not come under the remit of the Race Relations Act.

Personally I would dissociate myself from the stand which these headmasters took, which seems to be pig-headed and myopic in the extreme. Can we expect that from now on teachers who object to the turban in their schools will feel encouraged to outlaw the offending garment from British schools altogether?

MALCOLM VERRALL 81 Wynn Road Penn Wolverhampton

Training change

Sir - Having recently completed a post-graduate certificate in education course, I read with interest about the Department of Education's proposals to change teacher training (TES, August 6).

No doubt change is necessary: university departments of education are churning out far too many students, often with a mediocre class of degree, and certainly only a pitiful teaching experience, onto a job market that cannot possibly absorb them all.

The DES proposals go some way to alleviate this problem, but perhaps not far enough. Prospective teachers would be far better trained if the POCE year was spent completely in different schools. After all, it is only rarely during teaching practices that one comes to grips with the job of teaching; the larger part of the year is wasted in discussion often very petty, which relates little to the classroom.

Moreover, such a training would give students a clearer picture of teaching, and might serve to put off the seemingly large proportion of students for whom the PGCE course is just a "year off".

C. DAVIES 86 Wellington Road Brixton, London SW9

Duty to serve

Sir - David Peck's propensity to ride his hobby horse creates its own confusion ("Saving the young from the jobs holocaust", TES, August 13).

The role of the Careers Service Inspectorate is quite clear. Its purpose is to help local education authorities improve the quality of performance of their careers services. My inspectors would certainly be quite "out of place" (which I understand to be David Peck's definition of "inept" in this context) if they

concerned themselves with the quality of general education or training provision. I would like your readers to know of this interpretation, since, on the basis of common usage, they might think that David Peck was making a judgment on the work of my inspectors.

R H WOODCOCK Chief Inspector Careers Service Department of Employment Caxton House Tothill Street London SW1

County cars

Sir - In Richard Garner's article about the provision of a car for the deputy leader of the Wexham Education Authority (TES, August 6) you indicated that Hampshire rule provide chauffeur driven cars for members and officers. They are required to use public transport or their own cars for official duties. The county does not own any chauffeur-driven cars for purposes such as these and only hires cars exceptionally to meet special requirements. This is regarded here as the most cost-effective way of dealing with the situation.

L K ROBINSON Chief Executive Hampshire

Grant puzzle

Sir - I wonder if readers can explain why it is possible to obtain a grant for a one-year postgraduate teaching qualification after receiving a grant for a three-year degree course and yet, apparently, it is not possible to obtain a grant for even one year of a three-year degree course after receiving a grant for a three-year teaching qualification.

M. ROBINSON 306 Droydsden Road Manchester 10

FEATURES

FEATURES

Fields of combat

Waterloo may have been won on the playing fields of Eton but in the First World War it was more a matter of digging them up. Pamela Horn recalls how thousands of elementary schoolchildren were exploited and deprived of their education.



During the First World War, about five million Britons were recruited into the armed services, about 250,000 of whom had been working in agriculture. A whole range of new recruits were called upon to replace them and to meet the country's increasing need for home grown food. They included members of the Women's Land Army, disabled soldiers, German prisoners of war - and the nation's elementary school children.

The first demands for child labour were put forward by farmers' organizations as early as the autumn of 1914. Indeed, at a meeting of the Yorkshire Farmers Union at Doncaster in early October, someone suggested that where schools were being utilized as temporary accommodation by the military, the best thing would be "for all the lads to go on the farms and for all the teachers to go to the front".

A colleague agreed that it would be a great relief "if they could get boys between 12 and 14 years of age, some of whom could plough nicely". A little later at a meeting of the Nottinghamshire Farmers Union pressed for the age of exemption from school attendance to be lowered still further, one man declaring that boys of 10 were sometimes "better and more helpful to a farmer than others who were 13 years old".

It was in these circumstances that more and more local authorities began to waive by-law requirements for school attendance, in order to allow young children to work on the land. By so doing they were turning back the clock of educational advance by more than a quarter of a century.

Already during the period September 1, 1914 to January 31, 1915, 1,388 boys and 25 girls below the official leaving age had been given exemption, 54 of the boys being under the age of 12. Nevertheless, the process was given its greatest boost in March 1915, when the Board of Education, the forerunner of the Department of Education, issued a circular recommending local authorities to exempt children from attendance where they were needed for "light" and "suitable" agricultural employment.

The numbers of those involved soon began to mount, until by May 31, 1916, the total for England and Wales had reached 14,441 boys and 1,312 girls, of whom 493 boys and 53 girls were under 12. Huntingdonshire alone had 122 boys under 12 exempt, out of a total of 540 youngsters employed. In that county it was said that the schools had been "depleted" of boys between 13 and 14 years of age.

Flax Gathering August 1918.



Eventually the Board of Education intervened to press the local authority to cut back on its wholesale granting of exemptions. After some discussion, it agreed reluctantly not to give further exemptions to those under 12 "unless there were special circumstances which made it necessary". No change was proposed with regard to those over 12. Another major "offender" was Somerset, which in late July 1916 had granted exemptions to 715 children, more than one in ten of them under 12. Often these children - in Somerset and elsewhere - were paid the derisory sum of less than one shilling a day for their labours. In Bedfordshire, rates as low as 3s. 6d. per week were quoted during the spring of 1917, and in neighbouring Hertfordshire it was only in the autumn of that year that the L.e.a. decided not to allow exemptions unless the children were paid at least one shilling a day.

Nor was this all. Alongside the exemptions system, other concessions were made to increase the opportunities for child employment. For example, from February 1917, the Board of Education allowed schools to receive their ordinary grants if they were open for a mere 320 sessions per annum instead of 400, as had

"It seems premature and unwise to release boys from school at the age of 12½ unless it has been definitely ascertained that no woman labour is available for the work if a suitable wage is offered. Work which is only worth 1½d. an hour to the farmer can hardly be regarded as being sufficiently valuable to justify the sacrifices involved."
The Times Educational Supplement 25 Jan. 1917.

previously been the case. This meant that they only had to be open for 160 days in the year in order to qualify for the grant. In addition, the hours of attendance were adjusted in some schools to fit in with the children's work plans. At Little Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, in the spring of 1916, the school day commenced at 8 am, with a lunch break taken between 10.30 and 11.30 am. Lessons ended at 1.40 pm and the children were then free for the rest of the day to work on local farms.

Other arrangements included the employment of children during school hours to collect horse chestnuts and blackberries. This was initiated during the summer of 1917 in cooperation with the Food Controller, with the chestnuts used to replace flour used in the munitions industry, and the blackberries despatched to central depots, where they were made into jam for the armed forces. For mid-

Eton Boys, March 1917.



able quantities were collected, it being pointed out that for every ton of horse chestnuts harvested, half a ton of grain could be saved for human consumption. Berkshire children alone collected over 50 tons of horse chestnuts during 1917, while a year later, with the scheme still in full operation, their Buckinghamshire counterparts collected 131 tons and 7 cwt of blackberries! At Little Brickhill school alone 143 lbs of these latter were collected during the week ending September 25, 1918, and between September 16 and October 30, more than 600 lbs were despatched to the depots from this school.

A third way in which the youngsters were expected to assist in food production was by the cultivation of additional school vegetable gardens - the so-called "victory" plots. As early as January 1917, the Board of Education was encouraging heads to extend their gardens, declaring itself anxious that children "should be made to feel that they are doing national work by growing vegetables for the nation's needs". It expressed the belief that "in time to come they will like to think that, young as they were, they did their part in the Great War". During that year, in the county of Durham alone, school gardens increased by 40 acres and in Hertfordshire by 27 acres.

But it was the question of child employment in agriculture which aroused the real controversy. The medical officer of the Board of Education expressed concern at the way in which children were being called upon to perform heavy labour. He recommended that "no child under 14 years of age should be exempted from education half-time or whole-time, for purposes of employment for profit".

The Times Educational Supplement displayed equal anxiety. In its issue of April 4, 1916, it expressed concern at the way in which youngsters were being "exploited at the present time". Although it agreed that regulations and conditions governing child employment had been laid down, it was sceptical that attendance officers were able to keep in touch with all the exempted children and to satisfy themselves that they were working under proper arrangements. Nine months later it returned to the attack, condemning as "premature and unwise" the practice of releasing boys of 12 years of age for employment, and claiming that the wages paid, of about 1½d per hour, could hardly be regarded "as sufficiently valuable to justify the sacrifices involved".

But the criticisms fell on deaf ears. Despite sporadic attempts to protect the under-12s from recruitment, the youngsters' general em-

ployment programme continued. By the end of 1916 only five counties - the Scilly Isles, the Isle of Wight, Cardigan, Carmarthen and Denbigh - had refused to grant exemptions. By contrast an estimate for the five counties of Leicestershire, the Holland division of Lincolnshire, Herefordshire, Rutland, and Worcestershire revealed that at the end of 1917 the total of exemptions granted was almost double that of a year earlier. All the evidence is that conditions elsewhere followed a similar pattern, and that the numbers employed continued to rise during 1918, when they may have reached as many as 50,000 throughout England and Wales.

It was on grounds such as these that one critic was later to declare that there was nothing "meaner in our war annals than this exploitation of childhood"; youngsters were "being robbed of their education whilst their natural protector was away fighting... in the trenches".

Two American observers, writing in 1918, considered that an increase "nothing short of appalling" had taken place in the number of working children between 11 and 14 who, prior to the war, would have been protected by child labour and compulsory school laws. The contrast was all the greater in that public and secondary school children, who normally came from better-off homes, were only required to lend a hand during their vacations, when special agricultural camps were set up for them. During the 1917 harvest, about 4,500 such boys were engaged. Although most of them worked hard, the programme was inevitably organized in a holiday atmosphere very different from the remorseless daily grind endured by their elementary counterparts engaged on the ordinary farming round.

These, then, were the pressures endured by elementary scholars growing up between 1914 and 1918, quite apart from the hardships and grief of those whose fathers were killed or seriously wounded in action and whose lives were changed for ever in consequence. As one Oxfordshire youngster recalled, "by leaving school at 12 he lost all the benefits of his education. Instead, his working day began at 7 am and during that first summer of employment he and a friend worked long hours in the hay and corn harvest fields, as well as helping to feed the pigs and cattle. When the war ended he was too old to resume his school career."

Pamela Horn is a lecturer at Oxford Polytechnic.



We never close

Mike Durham finds the best place to spend the holidays is back in school

For three tense days last summer, the quiet streets of Leicester turned into a battleground. Some of the city's youth, both white and black, went on a rampage of looting and burning - leaving 112 properties damaged, eight police cars burned out, and 31 officers hurt.

The Moat Community College in Maidstone Road was in the thick of it. A spanking new school and community centre, it was on the front line - though never a target. Miraculously, not a single window was broken.

But this summer, the streets of Leicester have been silent. And on Maidstone Road, all the action has been going on not on the street outside, but in the college itself.

On a typical Monday morning the gymnasium echoed to the sound of 40 youngsters playing table tennis and badminton. Next door a party of 11-year-olds was having a crack at the college's 26 ft climbing wall, while outside a tennis class was in progress.

The Moat is one of 14 Leicester schools which have been kept open this year as a summer holiday youth activities centre. Determined to avoid a repeat of last year's unrest, the education authority and city council mounted a crash programme to open up schools, play groups and drop-in centres for the young.

This bold initiative, unsurpassed by any other city, appears to have paid off. Leicester's inner city streets have been quiet and the juvenile crime rate has dropped. Hundreds of young people have made the unexpected discovery that one of the best places to spend the long summer holiday is - back at school.

At the Moat, opened two years ago on the site of a former workhouse, the education authority funded a staff of four community youth workers and teachers to provide a full range of activities designed to attract children, unemployed school leavers, and adults.

As well as sports and games, there have been film shows at 30p a time and classes in everything from West Indian cookery to pottery and dance, pulling in up to 200 (mainly young) people a day. Most activities are free.

One of the community workers, Mike Parrant, acknowledges that the open door policy

was spurred on by last year's riots - although, in common with other Leicester youth workers and educationists he believes that it would probably have come about anyway.

"Last year everywhere was shut as usual," he said. "There has always been the assumption that during the 'Leicester fortnight' in early July - when the schools break up earlier than in most cities - everybody would be off in Skegness on holiday."

"But with unemployment being what it is, most people were still around Leicester with nothing to do." Then came the riots. Plans for summer activities at the college were rapidly brought forward and expanded.

Similar projects were launched at other schools and colleges. In January, the county education authority and Leicester City Council set up a joint working party and the two bodies voted considerable funds for a coordinated summer activities scheme.

The result is that as well as the 14 county-run schools and colleges opened this year, the city laid on 78 play schemes in parks and open spaces, plus drop-in centres at youth clubs and community centres.

Mr Tony Davis, recently retired as deputy director of education, was appointed clerk of the county's urban policies sub-committee. He believes the youth activities programme could never have got off the ground without close cooperation between the two authorities. "It has been a model of how local government should work," he said.

Take-up at the various centres scattered across the city was encouraging - though by early August it had not been necessary to call on the minibuses which were on stand-by to ferry children from one centre to another.

Throughout, the emphasis has been not on classroom or learning activities for bored youngsters, but on entertainment and excitement - using school facilities has often been only a springboard to wider adventures.

Groups of children, supervised by part-time youth workers or volunteers, have been packed off on day trips, gone canoeing or sailing, or spent the day on a narrow boat.

"Some kids are a bit afraid of coming back to school in the holidays," said drama teacher

Jezz Simons. "So we have done quite a lot outside. We want to give them something to remember."

Local schemes were publicized by posters, leaflets and advertisements in the local newspaper - though success often depended on news travelling by word of mouth.

At South Fields College of Further Education, for example, daily events in the youth wing were publicized well in advance by dropping 750 leaflets to local schools.

The neglected inner city suburb, in the shadow of Leicester Football Club's ground, is a priority zone with a high proportion of slums, one-parent families and households very close to the poverty line.

Until this summer the district had never had a community centre or youth club of any kind. Now there is a youth centre two nights a week at the further education college with activities three days a week in the summer as well.

During the holidays about 50 children a day were turning up to learn judo - taught by the local community policeman - use a craft workshop; mend motor-cycles and make their own video programmes.

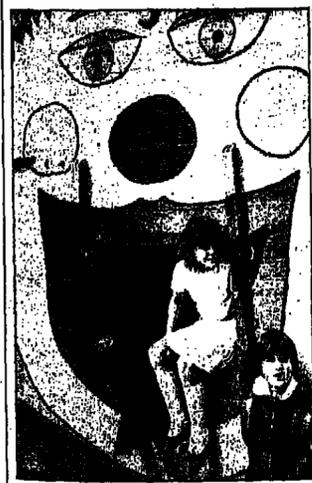
When they review this year's programme one of the problems the authorities will have to solve is how best to deploy resources. The signs are that children have become discriminating enough to travel across the city to join a centre which offers the activities they want.

Nobody is prepared to say categorically that the Leicester experiment has been the main factor in preventing rioting this summer - or that it has been responsible for the drop in the juvenile crime rate.

"We were aware of the alienation already. The riots sharpened up all our thinking," said Stephen Rennie, Leicester City Council's play officer.

"But this is here to stay. People are going to have to get used to having schools and colleges open all year round. We are going to have to rethink our attitude to leisure."

Tony Davis agrees. "We talk about education for leisure," he said. "But we shall have to develop leisure facilities to a much greater degree than people have dreamt of in the past. This is just the beginning. It's here to stay."



TALKBACK

Primary French lives

RON ADDELMAN

Primary French is not quite dead. There are still here and there in the country pockets where it survives and even thrives in spite of the Bursall report (1974) and the shortage of modern language teachers.

Tameside Council in Greater Manchester has decided to launch in September 1982 a pilot scheme to link primary and secondary French with a view to extending this to all schools in the authority if it proves successful.

Putting aside, the results of the much-disputed tests used by Dr Bursall and her colleagues, two of the major impediments to the success of that project were the lack of qualified linguists to teach in the primary schools and the lack of continuity between primary and secondary schools. Neither of these deficiencies will be present in the Tameside scheme.

Six qualified language teachers

will spend half their teaching week with first form pupils in the secondary schools in which they are based and the rest of their time going to each of the main "feeder" primary schools to give two lessons a week to each group of fourth year juniors.

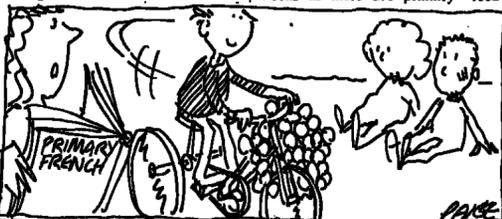
The aim of the scheme is to boost the level of attainment for foreign language learning and an early identification of able linguists who could study two foreign languages. The scheme aims to provide other benefits. It will offer a useful link between primary and secondary schools and introduce into primary schools a range of ideas, from the cultural background of other countries to language awareness, thus enriching the work of fourth year juniors who are so often ready for something new.

The problems this scheme may encounter are not hard to pinpoint but do not appear insuperable. Primary schools in the 1980s are increasingly forced to contend with vertically-grouped classes, an expedient forced upon them by falling rolls. The pilot scheme will be able to give some relief here by providing the teachers of mixed third and fourth year junior classes with the

opportunity to teach third year primary pupils separately for two periods each week.

Class sizes will vary, as over twenty primary schools are participating. The problems involved in teaching larger groups may be alleviated by the use of specially designed equipment which will enable the teacher to work more easily in groups. Each appointee will have a portable miniature 12-position language laboratory which may be used with or without teacher participation.

The range of course used in the four high schools selected will make it impossible and unwise to insist on an identical teaching syllabus throughout the scheme. Nevertheless,



less the work in the four groups of primary schools can still have some features in common. Not all Tameside head teachers are fully convinced that foreign language learning is worthwhile for children who have learning difficulties and are not proficient in their first language. However, most head-teachers are anxious for slow learners to be included in the scheme. The staff appointed are not experienced primary school teachers and it will be a considerable undertaking for them to adapt to their new peripatetic role. With this in mind, it is intended to carefully control their activities for the first half term of the scheme. For as many weeks as there are primary "feed-

ers", they will work alongside each top class junior teacher for a week at a time, in the hope that working alongside an experienced primary teacher will give them some insight into the techniques they may adopt. During this initial period no French will be taught. There will also be in-service work with members of the advisory service and visits to good primary schools.

There will be no central directive concerning methodology. It is expected that the approach will stress oral and aural work, avoid grammar, concentrate on a situational approach with a generous injection of language games. English, it is hoped, will be kept to a minimum. The limited amount of time which the languages staff will spend in each school will make it difficult for them to become deeply involved in language awareness, cultural background or interdisciplinary links. They do hope, however, to interest their primary colleagues in these topics and fully expect their pupils to want some aspects of their work to spread into the rest of their learning week.

Ron Addelman is an adviser in Tameside, Greater Manchester

The maths bogey man

ALISON FORBES

Like many of my friends at school, I was in the bottom stream for maths, debarred from general science and relegated to biology. Sporting our "thickies" label, we soon fulfilled the old prophecy and spent more time painting our nails and discussing boyfriends, while our mathematical abilities deteriorated. Maybe one day, we would become the creative, artistic types who didn't need maths anyway. That year, I received an ignominious failure and duly tore up the exam result slip.

As an adult, more than 10 years later, I decided to have another bash. I would take day-time classes in the college where I work, so there would be no excuses. I consulted my colleagues as to the choice of teacher and found someone with a sense of humour and, above all, an unthreatening manner.

I settled in easily, not too near the front, and soon adopted a student's behaviour, packing up at five minutes to the hour and facing the teacher's glare. But I had to stand up and be counted. I, too, was called a nit-wit in front of the whole class and ridiculed for silly mistakes.

But not now the humourless ogre, the punitive assignments and the spiteful comments. No quaking in your shoes, no frightened to ask a question. I asked to know, the students didn't, not because they weren't interested but because they had learned to accept what they were told.

They had the right idea. I now realize, I, on the other hand, was a literal-minded English lecturer, wanting verbal explanations, definitions, meanings. Give me some mathematical syntax and I'll analyse it. Give me a word for a symbol and I'll digest it. But no, this was not to be. I had to learn the language of mathematics.

The first term was plain sailing - lots of traditional stuff: algebra,

fractions and formulae. All you had to do was remember a minus and a minus make a plus and when you remove the brackets, you change the sign; no problem.

The spring term started and we dived straight into calculus, the subject traditionally guaranteed to finish off the non-mathematician and I was a prime candidate. Sitting at my desk, trying desperately to do my homework, I could feel the old anxiety returning like a rising tide: the increased pulse, racing heart, tired eyes, impatient headcave. Yes, it was all there, steel curtain and all. Damn! The dreaded learning block, like the Bogey Man, waiting for me under the bed. Old anxieties die hard.

The maths lecturers continued to rob me; she's got a fit of the trigonometry. But I could not appreciate any mathematical jokes. They didn't understand, those mathematicians in their lofty towers. I simply had to overcome this acute panic which beset me when I came up against a problem I could not do. I must have spent days on sets, drawing thousands of the wretched things, discussing their significance with a loyal friend. It was ridiculous. Junior school children know and love them. Surely I had progressed beyond Piaget's stage of formal operations.

Determined not to let the Bogey Man get the better of me, I persisted, grasping gratefully at the successes and plunging headlong with the failures.

I gradually became more confident and slowly gained a certain insight which allowed me to apply what I knew. And this ability to extrapolate reflected the greatest progress. I became exhilarated and expressed a new perspicacity which pervaded the rest of my life.

With exams looming, there was no time for self-doubt. Using a calculator had forced me to overcome my old-fashioned prejudice - the idea that technology had nothing to do with me. So I bounced into the exam hall and will certainly see the light in the front door at the end of August.

Alison Forbes is a Lecturer in English, at Walsham Forest College, London.

DIY thesis

MARY RUSSELL

Most students have to present a thesis only once in their lives. But, unfortunately, they have to do so at a time when they are under some stress - the course is at an end and employment or, more likely, unemployment threatens. Money is short and the euphoria engendered by actually getting everything down on paper has begun to fade. It is useful, therefore, to give a little thought on how to get a thesis typed and bound satisfactorily without spending more than is necessary.

There are plenty of people eager to type your thesis and they usually advertise on university notice boards. Agencies will charge more, a lot more, but they will work fast, use good machines and probably photocopy as well. Some typists will simply type what they see. They may not spot errors or spelling mistakes. Some typists, like some graduates, cannot spell. One notice on a university board advertised typing to be done on both A4 and fullsize (sic).

The more conscientious typists will insist, quite rightly, that you check their work every thousand words or so. This makes good sense but remember that it will take time

as they may not proceed with the next chapter until you've checked the previous one.

They may even want to be paid on that basis also. Charges vary from 40p to £2.50 per thousand words. In this case, it is vital that precious time is not wasted deciphering your script. If you have illegible handwriting, then put your thesis on tape. Most typists can work with tapes, but discuss speed with them first.

Universities usually require three copies of a thesis - one for the library and one each for the examiners although one of these copies may later be returned to the candidate. In all, you will need the regulation number of copies plus one or more for yourself. An agency will copy for you or you can do so yourself. This usually works out at 4p a sheet.

The next stage is binding. This is fairly standard - hard-back black covers with lettering in gold. Prices, however, are not standard and range from £5 to £12 a copy. Binderies are, sadly, on the decrease. The Bodleian at Oxford has an agreement which tolerates its bindery being used for a discretionary fee provided the work is not done during their time.

Oxford University suggests an outlay of £250 to £300 for DPhil theses; and MA for a more modest university might cost from £100 to £150.

There is no element in the grant to cover this final cost and the

National Union of Students has raised this matter from time to time.

If, however, you feel you can cross over from the Groves of Academe to the field of technology, then you might try a DIY thesis on a word processor. Not everyone has access to one but Daily Information, a group which produces a daily newsheet in Oxford, has been offering such a service for the past three years.

With a word processor, you can edit as you go along - no need to type up a rough draft. Daily Information has a number of word processors in the Phillips 5000 series which they reckon a brighter than average person can learn to handle in about three hours. Costs work out at about £4 per thousand words. The cost may well be outweighed by the time saved.

The machine will paginate and tabulate, knows its tables and can sort lists. There is also a smaller, take-home word-processor which can be hired out at £3 a day. You cannot edit very effectively on these but the text can be transferred to tape and then to a disc in a matter of seconds.

Not only does this service include splendidly flexible working hours - you can save a lot of money by using the machine between midnight and 5 am - but Daily Information also claims to have the only Anglo-Saxon printweed in the business.

Mary Russell was a research student last year.

Bring back inspections

ALMA TONGUE

may make a noise although the majority of the class want peace and quiet.

The subsequent proliferation of books on such matters, coupled with the Government's concern for standards leaves me feeling that despite all the books written on the "philosophy of education" and "philosophy and education," we have not yet sorted out what education is in the school sense, is about.

To give the Government its due, it has tried to find answers but it seems that the main confusion lies in the lack of definition of the curriculum. Some education authorities and schools see it in terms of just the content. Some governors, and parents, may wish to add, teaching methods. Yet I suppose the crucial aspect is really evaluation of whatever is attempted.

One school I recently visited refused to systematically teach children to read from the age of four. "Haven't you heard of 'reading readiness'?" When they have all ex-

perienced Piaget's sensor-motor stage, we feel they are ready for more concrete learning", said one very confident head.

"Cuisenaire is the answer to all mathematical understanding," is my "vertical grouping is the answer," insists a colleague. "Five-year-olds should not write on lines." "Why? one wonders. Do they not have access to lined paper at home?"

My biggest concern, however, is the almost meagre attitude to sand and water play and the inevitable Wealdy House. Yes I know page 18 of Primary Education (HMSO 1959) states that "young children need plenty of opportunities to use and develop their senses," but in 1959 very few nursery schools existed. Playgroups were unheard of and the mass media such as TV was not geared to our present day demands.

Human nature being what it is, we need a greater and more critical Inspectorate. Accountability must not only be an "in-word" but also an "action-word". The educational profession should be putting its house in order. In backing and support of the DES, if we delay much longer, then parents will rightly tell us exactly what to do with their rates and taxes.

Alma Tongue is head teacher of Stokes Hill County First School, Watlington, Hampshire.

REVIEW

A good and useful life

Jenny Oldfield and AJS Walker on prison education

Prison Education in England and Wales. Edited by W Forster. National Institute of Adult Education £4.75. In the Best Interest of the Child: An Evaluation of Assessment Centres. By Jerry Jacobs. Pergamon Press £7.95. A Measure of Diversion? Case Studies in Intermediate Treatment. Edited by R Adams, S Allard et al. National Youth Bureau £6.95.

Can you teach old dogs new tricks? Or old dogs the knack of literacy and numeracy? Contributors to Prison Education in England and Wales are often unduly confident that you can. In prison, inmates study OU courses, O and A levels. Did you read in The Guinness Book of Records about the lifer who has clocked up 49 GCSEs? Cynics might quickly point out further similarities between the organization and aims of school and prison.

The education officers writing here are indebted to the Home Office for their jobs as well as their access to information, and it shows in a narrow, uncritical assessment of "Classes". A S Baxendale's historical outline talks of "unsung heroes of prison education", and preaches "patience and forbearance" in his conciliatory alignment with traditionalists. W B Burkey puts his faith in vocational training, to build an inmate's self-confidence, to fit him for a job on release - into a society with three million unemployed? All the writers aspire to the "good and useful life" model of the 1964 Prison Rules, without any evidence of success.

J Uren must have been in cloud-cuckoo land rather than HMP Kirkham; or had his head buried in Goethe, with all the talk of nurturing the essential self by making soft loafs and matchstick boxes. His insistence that craftwork builds "self-esteem and dignity" is manifestly untrue when you see 30 grown men in an education block corridor, clutching pink teddy bears.

Once in a while, a serious question arises. How does a teacher in prison fit into the security/control/treatment ethos of incarceration? All teachers are warned by a senior PO to report any overheard information, subversive talk and behaviour. They're paid by the Home Office.

Occasionally, a principle worth remembering is reiterated: that each student should begin as an achiever, "and that progressive steps should demonstrate to him his ever-widening range of abilities." This chapter on remedial education is by far the most sound in a repetitive, shallow study. What of the quality of teaching, the recruitment of part-timers, the time-serving nature of the job? How can education draw people out, broaden their,

experience in such a straitened set of circumstances? Don't 49 GCSEs merely teach you what you are missing?

In the Best Interest of the Child shows how the system falls much earlier along the line. Jerry Jacobs breezed into a London Assessment Centre with his American professorship in sociology and emerged with a total condemnation of Greater London's failure to assess and help battered, runaway and school phobic children. Buildings are inappropriate, training for resident child care officers non-existent, the acting-superintendent unprofessional, dictatorial - "loud, open, brash and earthy."

Professor Jacobs records staff dissatisfaction, rivalries and revision from the job: "The whole atmosphere reminded me... like the smell of mental hospitals... a kind of over control that I didn't like", says one junior staff member. He cites the vagueness of consultant psychiatrists and their lack of contact with the children whose futures they are deciding. But he doesn't name the centre, and so affords it no right of reply. He draws the tooth of his violent attack and anaesthetizes the beast with anonymity. How can he suggest improvements without properly identifying the failure?

Although it seems true and shameful, the study relies on the writer's subjective reaction and personal assessment, backed up by quotations from taped comments from staff and resident children. British social workers don't offer entente about their jobs. American sociologists do believe in training certificates. And sadly, in this book, neither seem to know how to handle problem children.

The radical editorial stance of A Measure of Diversion brings a breath of fresh air. These are case studies in Intermediate Treatment for just such children, ranging from Tyn-y-Pwll, to Dundee, to Pontefract. They assess and dismiss the justice (delinquency as a disease), treatment and educational (we know best) approaches to juvenile crime, and support the need for social change. Many centres are voluntary aided, some in the great outdoors, but increasingly centred in the child's urban community. Each writer tries hard to understand the outcast adolescent's viewpoint and communicates an energy and commitment which is genuinely uplifting.

Intermediate Treatment's decade of experimentation pushes the editors to conclude that it should cater for more serious offenders, and be staffed by specialised social workers. Most radically, the balance of power should shift to the "customer", the emotionally deprived, alienated children. Then perhaps fewer will write from prison, saying how much they used to enjoy the centre. J O



Making Good: Prisons, Punishment and Beyond. By Martin Wright. Burnett Books £12.95 and £5.95

Anyone teaching a course in general social studies which includes such topics as law and order and crime and punishment will find Martin Wright's book extremely useful. Oxbridge scholarship candidates might want to glance through it before their general essay papers. Since Wright is not concerned with sociological perspectives his book has little to offer A level sociology candidates or their teachers. Those FE lecturers who teach in prisons will find his treatment of prison education superficial and naive. He fails to appreciate that the biggest obstacle to realizing the very considerable educational potential of prisons is the massive educational deprivation of Prison Service Staff of all grades. The men at the top of the Prison Department of the Home Office are another obstacle. Because of their Oxbridge tunnel-vision they would probably find educated prisoners as threatening as educated prison governors.

Ten years as Director of the Howard League taught Wright more about alternatives to imprisonment than about the prison system. Grendon is used by the Home Office as a show-piece. Both its staff and prisoners are expert PR men. Some research has shown that its psychotherapeutic regime is no more effective at preventing re-offending than a traditional custodial regime. Although the research was carried out by Home Office psychologists, it never reduced Wright's enthusiasm for an establishment which accepts only very verbal and cooperative prisoners with merely minor psychiatric disorders and has them swiftly removed to traditional establishments if they do not behave as model

members of a therapeutic community willing to discuss their problems endlessly at all hours of the day and night. In his book Wright seems if anything to be more sceptical about the Barlinnie Special Unit than about Grendon. The Barlinnie Unit was educational as well as therapeutic, and laid emphasis on prisoner's positive qualities and so might have been expected to have received more enthusiastic support than it does from Wright, who is nevertheless in favour of this type of regime in general.

The section of the book on alternatives to imprisonment is excellent. Wright's ideas on the future of the probation service are in line with many of the recommendations of the Barclay Report on general social work. When he deals with punishment he moves towards the outline of his current research, with which the book ends. His section on punishment would have been considerably strengthened by a consideration of the relevant work of the philosopher Ted Honderich. Few philosophical works are of any practical consequence, but Honderich's book on punishment is an exception.

Wright wants us to deal with crime in a quasi civil law context, in which victims will be compensated instead of offenders punished. The idea is not novel but is excellent and worth elaborating. MPs who resolutely vote against hanging should be capable of voting for it, but would they? The present Home Secretary gave up trying to achieve much more modest reforms. The idea that the vast majority of criminals are neither wicked and deserving punishment nor sick and requiring treatment can still seem radical. Punishment as Honderich shows us cannot be justified, but shaking belief in it will be a massive task. Wright deserves our support. A W

Limited Utopia

David Martin on approaches to sociology

Sociology Reinterpreted. By Peter L Berger and Hansfried Kellner. Pelican Books £1.75.

One of the best-sellers in sociology has been Peter Berger's Invitation to Sociology. The present book, written by Berger with Hansfried Kellner, renews the invitation and in doing so offers a defence of the nature of sociology. It is, as the sub-title says, "An essay on Method and Vocation". That means that everyone who wants a short introduction to the various substantive areas of sociology will be disappointed. What we have here is an inductivist into what is involved in sociological work: the mode of approach, the style of analysis, the problems of value and of application.

Anyone who has read Berger knows that he has a remarkable talent for fluent, brilliant writing and for lighting up dense argument by the use of examples. With remarkable ease he makes the crooked straight and the rough place plain. He is the ideal author for those who have no previous knowledge and yet who want a serious text which does not talk down or turn aside from troublesome problems. Berger and Kellner have the kind of contact of difficult issues which enables

them to shed most technical jargon and to summarize with lapidary ease. Every now and then they use a technical term, but the surrounding sentences are so clear that the term is immediately appropriated by the reader. The hint of technicality is enough to educate and not so much as to confuse.

Berger and Kellner can do this because they have a knowledge of the relevant ancillary disciplines of sociology. What gives sociology a bad name is the work of those who have only read their sociology. To misapply Kipling "What should they know of sociology who only sociology know?" To treat the subject in the round you have to draw on history, anthropology and political science, and your treatment will also be further enriched if you have mastered social and moral philosophy and epistemology. After all, epistemology is about the question of how we know, and that is a peculiarly delicate question: in the social sciences. What are the

criteria of social knowledge and how does what a sociologist knows differ from everyday understanding? A great deal of this book is given up to illustrating just how a sociologist approaches a subject of investigation and what frames of understanding and interpretation he deploys.

Sociology is a subject which raises rather special problems of relativity and of human freedom. Those who enter the sociological novelties often find themselves with a crisis of faith with regard to what they once saw as firm foundations of values or the normal nature of conduct and institutional organization. They have to face a relativization of perspective which can be disturbing because it places question marks against what they took to be immutable verities and sets limits upon their utopian hopes for social reform. In other words, conservatives encounter a subversion of their natural, taken-for-granted ideas and radicals encounter a short sharp curtailment

Harris Tweed Limerick competition advertisement featuring a cartoon of a man and a dog.

ARTS

Behind the masquerade

Victoria Neumark on the Notting Hill Carnival

Above the door of the Eilimu community centre in Harrow Road hangs a gay stencilled sign, "Welcome to the mas camp". Inside, feverish preparations for this year's Notting Hill Carnival are in progress. Every spare inch is filled with people cutting out, sticking, drawing, stitching and pressing this year's costumes. This year Eilimu will be "Land of the Caribs" and wonderfully bedecked Carib men and Carib women will be dancing with male and female vandas (a species of orchid) and led in groups by scarlet ibises. For one Bank Holiday weekend the exuberance of Trinidad will blossom on the streets of West London.



Members of Carnival Industrial Project trying out their costumes

Preparation for the Carnival begins almost as soon as the previous Carnival is over, with the band committee meeting in September to decide a theme for the next year's mas (short for "masquerade"). A mas band is not just a collection of musicians (Eilimu's musicians are the Groovers Steel Orchestra) but the whole collection of players - 200 or more this year.

Eilimu, which functions throughout the year as a community education centre, is mostly a youth band, and mostly female. Says Patricia Jaggs, senior youth worker at Eilimu, "More women than men play mas. We are a lot of women working together and we attract yet more women." Ansell Wong, Eilimu's director, concurs. "Sixty seven per cent of London's black British population is of Jamaican origin. Carnival is not in their tradition. It's an Eastern Caribbean thing. For young Jamaicans, putting on a costume is not their idea of fun or masculinity. But young black girls enjoy expressing themselves in costume."

Such sober considerations, the advances in screen-printed or tapestry techniques, are far from the minds of the excited maskers. Estelle, an experienced masker of 16 and last year's Diablosses, explains the pattern of the day. "You wake up early, come here and get into costume, put on your make-up. That takes about three - four hours. Everyone is really excited. Then we gather on the pavement. Some people are so big in costume that you can't get them through the door! There's always a crowd on the pavement with cameras waiting to see. About 12 o'clock we set off, we always go the same route and we have the same four or five police-

men, who really get into it with us. We stop at Ansell's house and food provided by the community - it's great, everybody is drinking and laughing, just everybody. Then we play all down road, Ladbroke Grove. Some people go on all night. The crowds try and get in among the players but you want your mas to look good so you try to keep together. You learn and you can better your mas each year."

Ansell Wong sees the role of the youth workers as nurturing and developing the tradition of carnival, adapting it to its surroundings. One big difference is that the spectators in the Caribbean are involved; whereas in Britain (police men apart) the spectators are cold. Some of this sangfroid rubs off on the boys who, according to Estelle, "see it as a waste, all that effort just for one day". Down at the Carnival Industrial Project on Ladbroke Grove, however, boys are heavily involved.

Recently CIP has gained YOP status for its programme of vocational training centred on the carnival. Welding, costume-making, leathercraft, silkscreen printing and steel pan making are being taught by 10 staff to a minimum of 38 trainees at present, mostly boys who will see their year's work culminate in three Carnival floats. Welding - highest status, best paid, most exciting - is the most popular with both sexes, though so far only boys have started on it. The practical training is also used as a springboard for literacy and numeracy skills, whose practical value becomes apparent.

The real need for work in the area is painfully apparent. In the hour I spent at CIP tours of the workrooms and interviews with the staff were constantly interrupted by bright-eyed youngsters asking "Excuse me, have you any part-time jobs?" with heart-breaking undercurrent of pleading beneath their rictus politeness. Victor Critchlow, the director, has taken on an outreach worker to find his trainees jobs. Notting Hill is full of new housing projects, but almost destitute of light industry. Gesturing around the work-shops where pieces of metal are being elaborately joined together, where tea-shirts and yard os cloth are being printed, sandals stitched and posters run off, where the poison-bright bee and fish costumes are nearing completion and four boys are learning how to use a seven pound sledge hammer on an oil drum to make it ring the songs of Carnival, Victor Critchlow says quietly, "The money has a bit to do with it, but they want something to do as well. A lot of us thought, after the Carnival, why not keep it going and teach the youngsters something?"



Caroline Salsbery of Cocoyes breaking The Petite Touch

Musical movements

Popular Music. By Graham Vulliamy and Edward Leach. Routledge and Kegan Paul. £4.95. 0 7100 0895 3. Folkson and Music Hall. By Edward Lee. 0902 X. Tin Pan Alley. By John Shepherd. 0904 6. Jazz and Blues. By Graham Vulliamy. (08945. Rock 'n' Roll. By Dave Rogers. 0938 0. Routledge and Kegan Paul £5.95 each.

Popular Music is the teacher's guide for the new Routledge Popular Music Series, of which the first four of eight volumes have appeared. They are robustly produced in hardback with a wide left hand margin that gives them an academic look, although a slightly larger than normal typeface means that reading them appears to be deceptively rapid. The subject matter would be suitable for upper school examination classes in a variety of subjects: social studies, English, history and drama, as well as music.

Issues are clearly presented in a narrative or documentary style which avoids indigestible gobets of factual information and resists attempts to copy verbatim for class purposes. There are numerous black and white photographs, much original source material - lyrics, interviews, reviews, newspaper cuttings, etc - glossaries of musical terms (usually items of general knowledge which are given useful further amplification), source lists, suggestions for further reading and indexes - all the trappings indeed of well researched and edited academic texts, ideal for project work. The four volumes are suitably cross-referenced, and while there is some natural duplication of material (for example, ragtime, rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll itself) the alternative viewpoints are valuable.

The volumes are not equally successful, however. Folkson and Music Hall suffers from too wide a brief and is consequently less formally cohesive than Rock 'n' Roll, for instance, whose history is contained within ten years from 1950. It is also more difficult to generalize about nineteenth century conditions in Britain: the musical situation was often quite different in the North East or

Wales, or the Midlands or Lowland Scotland, and music hall's development was not restricted to Cockney London, as the examples imply. Curiously, the best book on music lists is absent from the reference lists: Peter Honri's Working in Halls. Both Folkson and Music Hall, and Tin Pan Alley really need some music examples to complement the excellent selections of lyrics; better still, a compilation cassette for each volume should be seriously considered.

Dave Rogers' Rock 'n' Roll has the greatest impact, thanks to the sense of immediacy generated by a large volume of documentary evidence. Tommy Steele's verbal collection of a fire officer and the "dead-end" effect of the three year gap between leaving school and National Service helps to locate youth as a social force.

The teacher's guide is not so much a guide as a basis for action, most philosophical in tone. Although there are chapters on rhythm, singing, melody and harmony, orchestration, lyrics, youth and black cultures, they tend somewhat towards the idealized: an outline course in rhythm sets out a whole year's work, for example. It's their anxiety to put forward alternative criteria for evaluating popular music, the authors occasionally make the same mistake as their example, applying overly ideological analytical techniques to popular music and accentuating the differences between it and "classical" music. More seriously, they have confused socio-functional aspects of music with technical and formal ones. It is a pity that their perceptive criteria were not applied to all the music, thus emphasizing the similarities rather than the differences.

Andrew Pegge

Loosely linked lunacy

The Bread and Butter Trade. By Peter Terson. The National Youth Theatre. Shaw Theatre.

It all starts the morning Nick the assistant porter takes up writing. It ends - Peter Terson's farce The Bread and Butter Trade, this is - with Nick congratulating himself on having given us "a cracking plot". That only goes to show how much he's still to learn, for there isn't really a plot at all, just a lot of loosely linked lunacy: Nick's account of a day at a Bayswater hotel, "I am a camera," he says, and there he's dead right. Lurking in strategic corners of the foyer (an excellent, evocative set by Humphrey Jørgen), he gives us not so much a play as a set of instantaneous snaps of staff and guests. There's the Acting Manager pursued by a drunken Training Officer, an awful boy stuck in the lift and a mutinous

French chef (Angus Barnett); there are football fans, flaky dance drama fanatics, diamond thieves, wisecrappers and key snatchers. There's very entertaining they were too; Nick's set of snaps in fact had less than the usual quota of underexposed and out of focus shots. Directing the production - passing all these into the album as it were - Michael Croft and Graham O'Keefe drew some strong performances from their 40-strong National Youth Theatre company. Tony Howes played Nick with perky assurance; Janey Grier was a dragon of a Housekeeper, and Karl Dowling doubled well as one of the dozers and an irate America. But to call the piece a farce, even an "epic farce" is misleading. To adapt Brian Rix's phrase, I know a farce from my elbow. This was neither. Entertaining, but neither.

Hugh David

Small contribution

Byron Tonight. By Margaret J. Howell. Springwood. Book £7.95. 086254 0070.

Byron Tonight takes us on stage with Macready, Kean, Flis, Phelps and others as they struggled to win popular success with Byron's unactable dramas. Five chapters deal sequentially with Marino Faliero, Saranapalus, Manfred, The Two Foscari and Werner examining each

play in production. The examination shows Byron incapable of writing theatrical plays "dull, overwritten, devoid of dramatic interest" and a few contemporary opinions. Some Byron disclaimed popular theatrical success, it is a tale of wasted energies. Margaret Howell writes through it easily though repetitive, adding her small contribution to Byron studies and another expensive book to the Byron industry.

John Jarrett

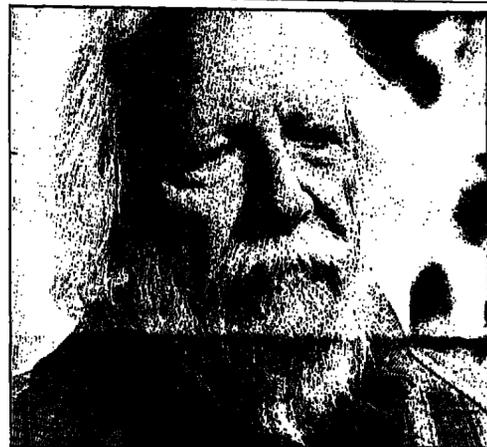
BOOKS

Golding apples

Edward Blishen on a collection of writings by the author of "Lord of the Flies"

A Moving Target. By William Golding. Faber £8.95. 0 571 11822 4.

If Mr Golding's book was an orchard, I'd be coming out of it with scrumper's pockets bulging. There'd be what he says of one of many memories of that marvellous object of his affection, Salisbury Cathedral - "washed from below with the reflected whiteness of a million open daisies". There's his view of Peppys's diary: "An honest record of dishonesty". There's the indescribable war: "We have invented a limit to literature". Elsewhere there's an apparent contradiction (but Golding is always sighing over Golding, caught out in some inconsistency): of writers he says, "It is our business to describe the indecipherable". There's Jane Austen as satirist, not destroying her victims with flashes of lightning but roasting them "over a fire so slow and nicely judged...". There's his account of his own essential quality, astonishment: which his present age - 70 - enables him to say does not necessarily fade, a younger trait: "It is possible to live astonished for a long time." There are, indeed, the constant reminders of that astonishment, scattered through these reprinted articles, talks, lectures; a review entitled "Gaia Lives, OK?", for example, that speaks of "an aspect of that invaluable amazement, his obsession with the custom-ary human view of things - the earth, especially the sea - and his everlasting attempt, of which his fiction is full, to disaccustom himself. What an amazingly good writer and splendidly awkward and original man he is, this book demonstrates



with particular force. In collected bits and pieces you don't usually have this feeling of a man struggling against all ease of opinion, all facility of phrasing. "I am in a mess," he cries, in mid-argument; elsewhere, "I fumble." It's the more impressive because words obey him so beautifully. Pleasant, indeed, to see that skill under smaller pressure than usual: as in two pieces in the first section of the book, which is called "Places" - an account of his affection for Winchester Cathedral, lapsing into a confession of his even greater love for Salisbury; and a record of a trip in his "old boat, the Wild Rose" ("She has a sort of eccentric intelligence") through Dutch waterways. But then again come pieces in which Golding, able to say things so well, wrestles with Golding, so doubtful if anything useful has been said. So here's an account of his lifelong engagement with ancient Egypt. To begin with, it was all inside, a matter of obsession with mummies, with the fearful paradox that those living Egyptians had turned themselves into dead Egyptians who simply wouldn't go away. He writes of an encounter when he was a boy with a British Museum

Bear left

Education, State and Crisis: A Marxist Perspective. By Madan Sarup. Routledge Education Books £8.95. 0 7100 0956 9. £4.95. 0959 3. Teachers and Classes: A Marxist Analysis. By Kevin Harris. Routledge Education Books £4.95. 0 7100 08651 1. Cultural and Economic Reproduction in Education: Essays on Class, Ideology and the State. Edited by Michael W Apple. Routledge Education Books £9.50. 0 7100 08457. £7.95. 0846 5.

Madan Sarup's book argues that education is now concerned with control rather than care. However, he offers no particular advice to teachers and whilst this leaves his Marxism pure and free from liberalism his book remains a catalogue of unproven generalizations. Sarup's Marxist perspective stands on all fours with Kevin Harris's Marxist analysis - both concentrate on economic as opposed to cultural analysis; both see education becoming more reactionary and trace this reaction to contradictions embedded in capitalism. Neither has ventured a detailed examination of what (as opposed to how) schools teach. Harris, however, makes general suggestions; he flirts with reform and the social democrats will find much in his book to nudge their consciences. Conservatives will choke on recommendations such as, "Kids don't have to be confronted with 'The Communist Manifesto': a sensitive (Harris's italics) reading of Dickens will do very well." And the worldly Harris says finally to the Marxist teacher, "Above all, don't get fired in the process." Process of what? Breaking up State power, taking control of the schools?

Marxism is not just a theory, it is a practice, albeit an unsuccessful one. Accordingly a Marxist analysis is nearly always prescriptive and it is Sarup's failure to say what he is prescribing that makes his book unconvincing. He criticizes, for example, all current attempts to deal with youth unemployment and sees vocational training and work induction as attempts by the state (via schools) to provide industry with acquiescent workers. Given that the relationship between state and people will not change by Monday morning it would have been helpful had Sarup indicated what the socialist teacher can do meanwhile. Harris at least recognizes the situation as it exists: "Do not refuse to be an agent in the reproduction of bearers of labour power by going to the extent of disqualifying your pupils from getting jobs. They need jobs as much as you need yours." (My italics.) Both Harris and Sarup point up the increasing centralization of education and The Great Debate and the Green Paper are seen as key indicators. The implication is clear: gradually the teacher stands to lose control over what is taught.

Peter Dorrner

A child's rights

Childhood, Welfare and Justice. Edited by Michael King. Batsford £5.95. 07134 37138.

Whenever it becomes public knowledge that a child has been treated badly there is a great sense of outrage. Most enquiries reveal a confusion of agencies who have failed and each one will blame the other: if it isn't the police it's the teachers and of course whatever happens, the parents. When children become involved with the laws of the land a number of questions must be asked: what is the status of the child in our society? Has he or she got any rights? Is he or she competent and responsible and if so, at what age? Rights are closely linked to economic power and whoever has this is allowed some degree of self-determination. Who truly knows what is best for the child and what is the connection between poverty, race and the amount of attention children receive from social agencies? The first chapter of this book examines the concept of childhood his-

torically and contains a critique of the explanations offered; the second a lawyer's analysis of the limited view courts take of childhood. In "Science in Court" we learn that the social sciences add to the confusion because there are trends and they have a way of adjusting themselves to fashion as well as the demands of the state. Bowley has argued that lack of mothering causes all sorts of disasters in later life and the working mother has been made to feel guilty.

Mr King adds the quality of a clinical lawyer's view to the problems of children's rights. He and his co-authors have separated the legal issues from the current views of childhood and this work ought to lead to new ways of looking at the phenomenon of childhood. I sense a passionate sense of justice which refuses to be drawn from its task either by rhetoric or Utopianism and his outwardly detached examination is thereby more effective and stimulating.

Charles Hannam

Multi-ethnic

Teaching in the Multi-Cultural School. Edited by James Lynch. Ward Lock Educational £12.50. 0 7962 4042 1. £7.25. 0 7062 4130 4.

This year, reports from Rampton, the Schools Council and Keele University for DES reiterate that schools do not serve ethnic minorities well. Teachers wanting to buck the slow official system should read Teaching in the Multi-Cultural School for ideas from practitioners on the curriculum and resources; ideas, not solutions, the authors stress.

From the grim introductory picture of poor educational theory, through projects to integrate minorities in art, music, humanities, science, there emerges a will to do better. Fifteen McGowan especially has a direct way of telling us that mathematics should relate to active situations, that "that's wrong" is superfluous, and that language problems relate to under-achievement in maths as much as in history. Her style is preferable to some jargon-heavy religious-educationalist referring to "multi-faith", "spin-offs" and "modular approaches". "Knowledge is power" is the old refrain, and indeed much information is repetitive. Only the science teacher, Peter Richmond, mentions compassion among the five essential "cs" for good learning, alongside curiosity, competence, confidence and content.

Gillian Klein adds a complaint about continuing racism in children's fiction. Cassell, Hutchinson and Chatto are among the offenders. Gollwosk should go. A small point, but the dignity of Sikh, Hindu and West Indian alike is offended by every jar of Robertson's Jam.

Jenny Oldfield

Hughes heights

Selected Poems, 1957-1981. By Ted Hughes. Faber £4.95. 0 571 11877 1. £2.50. 11916 6.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about this book, which incorporates almost unchanged his 1972 selection from his first three volumes, is the clear emergence in Ted Hughes of a poet with two distinct voices.

The first is that of the acute observer and exact delineator of the natural world; of those early pre-datory - Fox, Jaguar, Hawk or Pike in The Hawk in the Rain or, still his best volume? - Lupercal, the pageant of the changing year in Season Song; of farming life in the "Moortown" sequence; of the Yorkshire splendours and miseries in Remains of Elmet; or in the odd poem turning up anywhere. This is the side consistently played down by Hughes, yet he must know how good some of this poetry is, eg the vivid actuality of the farming diary, revealing, without a trace of sentimentalism, the tender compassion that underlies their harsh, unflinching realism.

The second voice, which to Hughes is the more important; is the voice of the visionary who sees his living animals becoming, at the same time, symbolic; mythological archetypes; and himself, shaman-like, seeking to heal the breach between the human and non-human worlds. The books where symbol or myth predominates are Crow, Cave and Gaudete, the "Earth-Numb" section of Moortown, and the separate entities in that book: Prom-ethus, his Crug and Adam and the Snake and Nine.

These voices are, on the whole, adequately and discriminatingly illustrated here, though certain

volumes do not lend themselves to representative selection: it is useless to print unillustrated poems from Cave Birds after a Note stresses the interdependence of words and drawings; and the same applies to Under the North Star; but Hughes's poems stay sufficiently impressive apart from Fay Godwin's splendid photographs to justify the selection from Remains of Elmet. On the other hand, the 14 delicate lyrics from Epilogue to Gaudete are at total variance with the nightmarish long verse narrative. The general principle in selection has been to tone down the violence, cruelty and horrors in the first three books, and the blasphemy and obscenity of Crow, by the omission of poems, wholly or in part. It looks, in fact, as though Crow has become something of an embarrassment to Hughes, who has here reduced its 67 lyrics to 17, only 10 of which, out of context, are recognizably Crow poems; and Crow itself is now described simply as "relating the birth, upbringing and adventures of a protagonist of that name." Only Wodwo, that interim volume as Calvin Bedient called it, seems over-represented by 30 of its 40 poems. It certainly lacks the unity Hughes claimed for it; being an odd mixture, ranging from the stark realism of "Her Husband" to the mythological allusiveness of "Ghost Crab". Selected Poems, 1957-1981 is completed by three poems from a new sequence, "The River", and two uncollected, one a splendid poem addressed to Sylvia Plath, "You hated Spain". When all reservations have been made this is an impressive selection from a poet still writing in full spate, and still probably not at the height of his powers.

Hermann Peschmann

BOOKS

East, west, knowing's best

Philip Sauvain on geography

Enquiries: Life in Developing Countries. By W J Hanson. Longman £1.25.

Patterns of Development. By John Bale. Food, Farming and Famine. By Barbara Jones and Richard Wales. *Studies in Development: Peru.* By Rex Beddles, Robin Gildersleeve and John Simpson. Nelson for the Schools Council. Geography and Change series £2.25.

City Life. Learning in Life. Working Life. Village Life. Food for Life. Family Life. By Olivia Bennett. Macmillan Education in association with the Save the Children Fund and the Commonwealth Institute. £3.95 each.

Patterns of Living series: Jungles and People. By Gillian Morgan. Grasslands and People. By Catherine Horton. Wayland £4.95. Nature's Landscapes series.

Through the Year in West Africa. By Malcolm Green. Batsford £5.95.

China By Raymond Pask and Gina Corrigan. Heinemann £2.50.

istration as an extension to the Schools Council Geography for the Young School Leaver project. Each book is divided into a number of units, and photographs, maps, trusts, diagrams and statistics are used as source materials for the study sections. There are many excellent ideas in these well-researched and painstaking books and the teacher's notes, in particular, are a model of their kind. However, many of the exercises seem to me to be unduly ambitious and the use of statistics

Patterns of Living is another series which bears the imprimatur of important parent organizations. This six-book series has been produced in collaboration with the Commonwealth Institute and the Save the Children Fund who co-operated in finalizing the text and selecting the illustrations. In contrast to the other books mentioned so far, Olivia Bennett's aim has been to help children to "recognize both the similarities and the differences between various cultures and societies"



The traditional English breakfast features in Breakfast in Wayland's "What the World Eats" series (£3.95). There are examples from around the World and affluent countries.

Different ways of approaching the difficult subject of the developing world are well illustrated by the books in this group. W J Hanson's *Enquiries*, with its cartoons, poems, graphic extracts from novels, newspaper clippings and eyewitness accounts, appeals as much to the heart as to the head. At £1.25 this is excellent value as a source book of ideas, guaranteed to stimulate thought and even some soul-searching as well. On the debit side are the lack of an index or a proper list of contents, and it is always possible that some teachers may dislike its rather tendentious selection of ideas, source materials and illustrations - such as the allegorical cartoon strip, "A Fable", which shows a rich man exploiting a poor man.

Patterns of Living series, by contrast, pursues a more coldly analytical approach, in which statistics and maps help to explore "the contribution that Geography can make to Development Education". The three books in this well-meaning series have been written in association with a project funded by the Overseas Development Admin-

occasionally leaves something to be desired. For instance, a composite index of development exercise in *Patterns of Underdevelopment* confusingly requires students to rank different levels of development, such as birth rate and life expectancy, in rank order. In some the "lowest indicator is ranked 1 and the highest 12" and in others "the highest indicator must be ranked 1". The complex effort involved hardly seems worth it in view of the fact that no figures are available for infant mortality in three of the countries listed. Nor does it clear whether the life expectancy figures are male, female or both. In *Studies in Development: Peru* an allied exercise on three choropleth maps is a nightmare for those with ordinary colour vision and virtually impossible for the five per cent or so of students (male) with red/green colour-blindness!

rather than to highlight poverty and famine in the Third World. These are information books rather than textbooks with excellent colour photographs on every page and many detailed case studies. Children of average ability will find this an accessible and interesting series to use for project and topic work.

Nature's Landscapes presents yet another aspect. In *Jungles and People* Gillian Morgan rightly culminates with a chapter entitled "Why we must preserve the forests" - even though she recognizes the problems of underdeveloped Third World countries and their "need to exploit every available resource to help develop their economies". These excellent library books are filled with superb colour photographs and a coherent and relevant text. They examine the distinctive landscapes of the world and show how the environment has affected human development and thought and how it still influences our way of life today. Historians may quibble, however, with the light-hearted but unwarranted caption to a modern artist's pictorial impression of an "early caveman's family" - "Family squabbles evidently existed then as now!"

Knowing what went on in the minds of prehistoric people is beyond our present technology but not so an understanding of the cultures and societies of other lands. One of the main plus points for Batsford's enterprising *Through the Year* series is the publisher's insistence that the authors "must be closely in touch with the countries of which they write". Malcolm Green spent three and a half years in Bali Nyonga, a small town in North West Cameroon, where he took all the photographs for his book. The result is a very rewarding firsthand study of what it means to live through the year in a developing country in Africa. As such it will be ideal to flesh out courses based on *Enquiries of the Geography and Change* series.

Raymond Pask and Gina Corrigan also took many of the black-and-white and colour photographs used in their geography of China. I doubt whether they are realistic in aiming their book at students at middle-school level over a wide ability range since it reads more like a CSE book to me. But there are many useful things here. The text is clearly set out, the maps use colour and are nearly always clear and accurate. For no good reason China's capital city appears in its traditional English form as Peking instead of Beijing, but the equally familiar Yangtze has been translated into Chung Jiang.

Conducted tours

David Self on some available poetry anthologies

Poetry 1870 to 1914. Edited by Bernard Bergonzi. Longman £1.95, 582 35147 2.

Contemporary British and North American Verse. Edited by Martin Booth. Oxford University Press £2.50, 19 831243 1.

How Strong the Roots. Edited by Howard Sargent. Evans £3.95, 237 45559 5.

Narrative Poems. Edited by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark. Oxford University Press £2.25, 19 831241 5.

Bernard Bergonzi seems to feel the need to justify an anthology bridging the years 1870 to 1914, but (as he points out in his helpful introduction) there is a coherence to the period - not in the on-going and delicate balancing act in which the late-Victorians weighed aestheticism against morality. From this period of shifting tastes, Professor Bergonzi draws four main strands: "Despair and Faith" (represented by the Hopkins and others), "The Last Romantics" ("Bridges, Wilde, Housman, Yeats, etc."), "Realism" (Hardy and, yes, Kipling), and finally the movement towards modernism which is illustrated by early poems from Eliot, Pound and T E Hulme.

The resulting anthology makes for pleasurable browsing. It also proves that, from the literary viewpoint, these years are far more interesting than we sometimes admit and it is my hunch that as the present decade progresses we shall turn increasingly to this period as a key to the twentieth century. I suggest the A level examiners consider prescribing the book at their earliest opportunity. It does after all come complete with its own study notes.

Martin Booth's *Contemporary British and North American Verse* is exactly what its sub-title claims: an introductory anthology. That is to say, it is not a representative anthology but a sampler, introducing 30 American, Canadian and British poets who have been active during the last 25 years. Its success is that distinctive poets (Brownjohn, Causley, Mitchell, Patten) as well as the "greats" (Hughes, Larkin, etc.). There is little included to suggest

eccentricity on the part of the anthologist.

Indeed it is rather like a conducted tour of an ordered museum garden. We are shown all the distinctive blooms and not confused by rarer varieties. "For those of you who want a wider selection, there is a bibliography. Books by the poets can be bought through bookshops or ordered from a public library."

Discreet notes, such as that one steering the novice reader into the world of poetry and help to realize Mr Booth's hope that "a desire to read more will spring up and maybe link itself with the writing of poetry and the listening to it". His anthology would broaden any A level syllabus and is one I would thoroughly enjoy using during the first autumn term of a sixth form literature course.

By comparison *How Strong the Roots* (Poems of Exile), is less even, less literary. One or two of the poems are "poor poetry", but then exile and loneliness do not encourage elegance. Nevertheless, all the poems are direct, engaging and often disturbing. They are poems by exiles from Pakistan, India, Nigeria and Northern Ireland who are living in Britain; there are poems by British exiles abroad (moving from Browning to Kipling); historical poems, Elizabeth Bartlett's poem "In Memory of Steve Biko" and poems about ancestors and family.

How Strong the Roots will appeal to third and fourth years upwards. It deserves wide use: it will nurture tolerance, dignity and an awareness that one is not alone.

Although attractively produced, *Narrative Poems* is a little disappointing. It is true that narrative verse often appeals to those to whom poetry otherwise unappeals and while a number of interesting "new" poems are collected together here, there are many whimsical traditional ballads and old standbys. "Robin Hood", "The Wreck of the Hesperus", "Inchcape Rock", "The Yarn of the Nancy Bell", "John Gilpin", they are all here, as they are in so many other anthologies. The publisher says it is designed for the middle years of the secondary school. I am afraid it will strike many such pupils as oddly unsophisticated.

BOOKS

What makes people tick

Personality: Theory, Measurement and Research. Edited by Fay Fransella. Methuen £10.50 0416 72770 0. £4.95, 72808.

This volume presents five major approaches to personality - psychoanalysis, factor analysis, cognitive style, personal construct theory and humanistic personality theory - complemented by reviews of relevant research and practical applications. If this were all, it would be yet one more introduction to the complex field of personality study, a competent text for the undergraduate. However, the editor, Fay Fransella, achieves far more since not only is she fair to the wide range of theories which are represented in this collection of essays but also she tackles the difficult question of how to reconcile the differences which inevitably appear.

Her book takes as its starting point the philosophical bases which underlie psychological theories of personality, and Joseph Ryckick, in the first chapter, makes the challenging point that there are advantages in showing more openness to other perspectives when he attempts to reconcile some of Freud's ideas with recent research findings in neuropsychology.

Within the framework of theories cognitive style, Kenneth Goldstein and Sheldon Blackman indicate the argument that any one scientific or analytic approach has limitations

in its power to provide a complete explanation of human nature reminds me of G. K. Chesterton's story of the five blind men who visited an elephant. One of them seized its trunk and asserted that an elephant was a kind of serpent; another embraced its leg and was ready to die for the belief that an elephant was a kind of tree. In the same way, to the man who leaned against its side, it was a wall; to the man who laid hold of its tail, a rope; and to the man who ran upon its back, a particularly unpleasant kind of spear. Yet the concept of elephant was within the range of human understanding.

In varying degrees the contributors succeed in transcending their own particular orientations in order to agree upon diversity. Paul Kline seems least tolerant of other approaches when, in asserting that clear-cut personality factors have been identified by rigorous research, he argues that "future theories of personality should be based upon studies of these variables and not the shadowy entities of clinical theorizing and speculation". Peter Fonagy shows more openness to other perspectives when he attempts to reconcile some of Freud's ideas with recent research findings in neuropsychology.

Modern Literary Theory: A Comparative Introduction, edited by Ann Jefferson and David Robey (Batsford Academic £4.95) is ideally suited to sixth form students needing to make sense of the current trends in criticism. The authors consider both individual theorists and schools, and examine the potential uses of each approach.

measures of the structure of thought may lead to a more rounded picture of the person, despite apparent contradictions. Fay Fransella herself, in her analysis of personal construct theory, suggests that researchers have to admit the need to create new models, new rules for playing the game of scientific enquiry; this is perfectly consistent with Kelly's view that "we assume that all of our present interpretations of the universe are subject to revision or replacement" and that theories are ultimately expendable. Finally, Keith Cutley, in his evaluation of the contribution to humanistic psychology of Rogers and Laing, argues the case for going beyond a science of personality to a study of being human; some kind of "negotiation" between objective data and subjective accounts of experience would seem to be one way of achieving this aim.

Clearly the book raises many issues. There are no quick answers to the question "What is the person?" but the inquiring reader should find this openness challenging. Perhaps it is appropriate to let George Kelly have the last word: "We have taken the basic view that whatever is characteristic of thought is descriptive of the thinker; that the essentials of scientific curiosity must underlie human curiosity in general. If we examine a person's philosophy closely, we find ourselves staring at the person himself."

The recent spate of books about Nazi Germany has now been joined by a useful reference text: Robert Wistrich's *Who's Who in Nazi Germany* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson £10.95, 0 297 78109 X). Nearly 350 people are dealt with in succinct but readable potted biographies, opponents of the regime as well as its leaders.

Costume history

No Man's Land: the story of 1918. By John Toland. Methuen £2.50, 0 413 50100 4.

The Boer War. By Thomas Pakenham. Futura £5.95, 0 7088 1892 7.

Africa and The Victorians: the official mind of imperialism. By Ronald Robinson and John Gallagher with Alice Denny. Macmillan £6.95, 0 333 31106 3.

Rebirth of a Nation: Wales 1880-1980. By Kenneth O Morgan. Oxford Paperbacks £4.95, 0 19 821760 9.

History as drama is the genre of John Toland's remarkable book - as he reveals without delay in his initial cast list. His is not your standard five-act tragedy, but nevertheless it is a grand theme told at a cracking pace: the last year of the First World War. The curtains lift on the first act to reveal the great German offensive against the Western Front. As the shells fly, soldiers on both sides vividly describe the action in their own vivid characters with the forgiving certainty of God (he always gives the time, which adds to the drama). This is an all-too familiar subject, but Toland's achievement is to create a coherent drama without simplification or losing the political thread in a wad of footnotes. This is a book to bring home the reality of war and the indignity of peace.

Thomas Pakenham makes a different approach to history: history as investigative journalism. He has chosen another apparently-familiar subject, that costly and humiliating "tea-time" war, fought in Buchan and Kipling country. Surprisingly enough, it is 70 years since the last major study of the Boer War. For this reason alone, and for the excellence of his analysis, Pakenham's work deserves reading. But eight years of meticulous research and writing have also uncovered much

important new information: the fact that the "gold-bugs" (the Rand millionaires) did play a part in making the war; the existence of an informal alliance between Britain's High Commissioner Sir Alfred Milner (Buchan's boss in 1901-03, who resurfaces as War Minister in Toland's book) and the major Wernher-Breit mining company, and its role in forming war; the key part the black Africans had in the "white-man's war"; dying in uncounted thousands, and their suffering and death at Mafeking under Baden-Powell; and the true horrors of the camps in which the Boer civilians were kept under Kitchener's command. Pakenham does not use Toland's dramatic techniques, but there is drama enough, especially for those who care to look for the parallels with the events in the South Atlantic 80 years on.

The Boer War reappears in less immediately shocking guise in a treatment of history as political science - a study of the scramble for Africa by the aptly-named Beil Professor at Oxford and his colleagues. The war is one of a number of case studies used to examine the workings of Victorian imperialism and theories of imperialism. When the book first appeared in 1961 it aroused controversy for its analysis. This second edition examines that controversy and takes account of the developments in the theory since then.

Kenneth Morgan had the task of covering the longest time-span of these four books (for part of a series on the history of Wales). He could very easily have fallen into the trap of producing history as pot-boiler or history as simple chronology. He has skilfully avoided this and has written a useful introduction to his period, organized thematically within three periods. He provides a good basis for study, but the overall effect is somewhat flat.

Helen Cowie
Michael Church

LUTTERWORTH

The mathematical theory of Rubik's cube and its educational applications

HANDBOOK OF CUBIK MATH
David Singmaster & Alexander Frey

Rubik's Cube has become the greatest puzzle craze of all time and it is also the most mathematically complex puzzle ever to become popular.

HANDBOOK OF CUBIK MATH is a book about problem solving and some of the fundamental techniques used in problem solving throughout mathematics and science. It provides a comprehensive explanation of the basic mathematical ideas involved in the solution of the cube and shows how these can be used to understand many abstract theoretical concepts.

Numerous examples and exercises make the book an ideal introduction to group theory and advanced algebra either as background reading or as a supplement to a standard course.

David Singmaster, lecturer in Mathematical Sciences and Computing, South Bank Polytechnic, London, is the top world authority on the mathematics of the cube and Alexander Frey is a computer architect with IBM.

£5.95

Published by Blackie, New Jersey, USA and distributed in the UK by Lutterworth Press (hardcover copies available from)

LUTTERWORTH PRESS
Lutterworth, Leicestershire

TEB1
Lutterworth Press, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, GU1 4XD.

Children's literature

Paved with good intentions

Space Seven Series:
Poggle Helps Out; Planet Earth; The Planets of the Towers; What Will Happen Next?
Sheffield Women and Education
Publications 60p, each + 17p. P&P. £2 per set of 4 + 35p. P&P.

If good intentions made good books, I should now be praising the Sheffield Women and Education Collective for their series of supplementary readers, as, alas, I cannot. They intend to provide seven-to-eight-year-olds with reading that will be free of gender and race bias, and more imaginative than the reading schemes from which they are suffering in school; an excellent intention. To do this, they have chosen the medium of space fantasy; to free the stories from the routine, predictability of the reading scheme, an excellent idea.

Then what has gone wrong? Part of the problem may be that different members of the collective have written and illustrated the stories, and there is some uncertainty about the reading level they are aiming for, though, oddly enough, this uncertainty is most marked in two stories by the same writer, Jackie Smith: *Planet Earth* is told in the historic past, like most real stories, while *The Green Moss* and *The Greedy Clobber* are in the present tense, typical of bid-

fashioned reading schemes, and also full of the repetitions found in the early stages of such schemes. The two stories are bound together in one volume, and the paintings, which don't even come first.

But the chief defect of these stories seems to arise directly from the writers' intentions. To catch children's interest, they seem to have modelled the *Space Seven* on *Enid Blyton's Famous Five*, with three boys, three girls and a female creature from another planet, called Poggle. One of the girls appears to be of West Indian origin, but, presumably to avoid invidious effects of gender and cultural difference, the characters are hardly differentiated at all; for all the sense we get of them as real children with separate and possibly clashing personalities, they might as well be Janet and John. Indeed, Poggle, who looks not like a bug-eyed monster but like another child in a sleeping suit with antennae, is, because she is depicted as 'greedy' and 'self-centred', the nearest thing to a human being in the books. This, together with imaginative thinness in all the stories except *Poggle Helps Out*, makes these little books a saddening experience. The causes of the multi-cultural society and gender equality deserve and need better service than this.

Audrey Laski

Top of their class

NEW EDITION The Oxford Senior Dictionary

NEW EDITION The Concise Oxford Dictionary

Ideal for secondary school or college students, this dictionary contains the specialist subject vocabulary they will need up to O level or CSE standard.

'As a companion to essential scholastic texts it should prove invaluable' T.E.S.

'Presented with Oxford's inevitable clarity and elegance' The Times

Vocabulary: 45,000 words
768 pages
0 19 910221 X £2.50
Jacketed edition:
0 19 910222 8 £3.75 net

The Good Book Guide in its dictionary survey had this to say about the previous edition:

'The classic single-volume dictionary, benefiting from over 100 years of Oxford scholarship... the most consistently accurate dictionary for general use'

Vocabulary: 75,000 words
1,312 pages
0 19 8611315 £7.75 net
Thumb indexed:
0 19 861132 3 £9.50 net
And in presentation editions.

Available from all good bookshops, including W. H. Smith, John Menzies, and Boots book departments.

Inspection copies of *The Oxford Senior Dictionary* are available from: Oxford University Press, Education Department (EBL 336), Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP.

Oxford University Press

RESOURCES

"Our friends think we're mad to work like slaves"

Lotus eating is not everybody's idea of a good holiday. Jack Cross looks at some alternatives.

A large adventure and special interests holiday industry has grown up to cater for the needs of families and individuals, particularly young ones, who are looking for something active and interesting. For most this means sport - anything from abseiling to orienteering - but increasingly popular are projects which call for a degree of physical exertion combined with some form of learning and, often, an expression of social or environmental concern.

Acorn Camp (no 47) at Wicken Fen, in Cambridgeshire

Each morning at eight o'clock, what looks like the pioneer platoon of a medieval army sets off on a two-mile tramp to its allotted place of work. The 20 boys and girls carry axes, saws, mattocks, slathers and billhooks. Their task is to clear a wide path through a two hundred year stretch of virtually impenetrable scrub and woodland. In the autumn a mechanical digger will use it to get into position to gouge out a new dyke which is needed to drain the surrounding fenland.

Wicken Sedge, Adventurers' and St Edmund's Fens make up the oldest nature reserve in the country. It is owned and managed by the National Trust which depends on a great deal of voluntary labour to protect and recreate the areas of sedge, reeds and litter (rushes), the natural communities of open fenland.

On the site is one of the 80 Acorn Camps set up by the Trust's Junior Division to provide accommodation for the groups of young people (over 16, 60 per cent from schools and sixth form colleges; 87 per cent under the age of 20) who come each year to find fun, fellowship and the satisfaction of a good job well done.

This year there will have been three successive teams, each with its own leader. The official booklet advises applicants not to overestimate their capabilities. "Tasks are not unduly arduous... but experience has shown us that people get much more tired and achieve far less on a second week."

I arrived on a hot, humid Sunday morning, amid a cloud of Brimstone butterflies, to meet a cheerful party which had been working for three days. A stretch of cleared land and a line of head-high log and stick piles compensated for blistered hands and scratched muscles. Several of them, like Geoffrey Mason, a levels in her Stray park. With Duncan, she took 11 hours to dig the BSA motor-bike to the camp from Luncarty. They volunteered generally agreed rationale for their

presence. "It's getting away from desks, books and the family. There's the chance to make new friends and, for town-dwellers, to sample country life. But mostly it's because when you've finished you can look back at a patch of cleared land and say 'I helped to do that'."

Their camaraderie is real, warm and mildly self-mocking. "Our friends think we're mad to work like slaves and pay for the chance to do it" (Acorn campers pay £11 for food and shelter - it will be a little more in 1983). They moan enjoyably about the mosquitoes, the nettles ("fenland species are not supposed to sting!") and the fact that it takes an hour for them all to get through the single shower after the day's work. Leader Mick Andrew, a local authority building works coordinator, rules them with a rod of iron, they pretend. "Hating the Leader is part of the game", he says. "Most of the undying romances spring up because they've got to have someone to love."

In fact, under his careful, expert and discreet eye, the groups virtually organize themselves in an admirably subtle, sensitive and sensible way. The boys respect the girls' competence and willingness but don't expect them to tackle the really heavy jobs. Camp chores are shared equally and without fuss.

Back at Young National Trust headquarters they know that when the next guide to Acorn Camps comes out in January all the places (particularly those for girls) will quickly be filled. What they may lack is enough capable people of the calibre of Mick Andrew and his assistant, Nigel Richardson, to oversee projects.

Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, Suffolk

Of the nine residential centres run by the Field-Studies Council, none is likely to be more attractive than the one at Flatford Mill. Visitors sleep and eat either in the mill itself or in Willie Lot's cottage, both of which appear in some of John Constable's best-known paintings.

The council's declared aim is to help towards a better understanding of the environment and it provides a wide range of relevant courses for enthusiasts of all ages, with special provision, in and out of term-time, for sixth-formers to study ecology and physical geography. Last year 12,000 of these took advantage of the expert tuition offered in these rural retreats.

I found fifteen girls and five boys by the side of a tiny stream, studying the diversity of behaviour and adaptations of invertebrates in different current speeds in the "Lotic environment", running water. Dredged-up samples were picked over by and placed in the separate apartments of plastic paliettes for identification and recording.

"It's a caddis fly" suggests Adrian Kyrishon from Norwich. "Oel away, it's a bit of twig." (Karen May, from Guildford). "Not if it wiggles" decides Wendy Burbridge; apparently the non-biting midge has a recognizably characteristic movement in water.

This was part of their A level Biology syllabus; some boards include a compulsory Ecology paper and all offer an optional question on the subject. The course members

had been "advised" (but not pressed) to take part and their fees were paid by their I.e.a.s. Sarah Vernon, the tutor, keeps in touch with the teachers and designs a syllabus to meet their needs, but it is the methodology that really matters, and the opportunity to get out and see how living creatures interact with their natural habitats.

In urban schools such chances are hard to come by. Claire Levett from Leeds hopes to become a biochemist. "I've done botany and biology but know nothing about nature - our field study is done in the school's playing field." Some students, says Sarah Vernon have "never visited the country nor walked more than a quarter of a mile in their lives."

The centre provides a well-equipped laboratory and well-stocked library and these are used, but its real purpose is in daytime activities far removed from the classroom world of books, diagrams and dissecting benches. Students have some surprising encounters like the time a family of ducklings was trapped on the long wide of a weir and they spent hilarious hours rounding them up and getting them to safety. A bottle containing an unidentified minute creature - or "is it two?" - is brought to Sarah. "It's a newly hatched mayfly larva which has just dropped its skin."

Mark Woolerton supposes that they could do such work on their own initiative but, "I know I'd never get round to it, with all the written work that has to be done in the holidays. It's better to get away."

All agree that the course is valuable, the accommodation reasonable, the food very good and the companionship rather special.

If one or two of the boys echo Andrew Tibble's view that the intensive nature of the course places constraints on their social life - "You can't do your own thing, like going to the pub in the evening, for instance", it can't worry them too much as most of the group have already declared their intention to join open, less academic, courses at the centre later in the year.

The Brain Valley Archaeological Society, the "Fountain" site, Braintree, Essex

You go through the pub car park, past a rusting stock car and through a narrow gap in the head-high nettles, to find a group of people, aged between 15 and 21, who are living in their imagination in the world of first to fourth century Roman Britain - or even in the Iron Age. Except for one all are present or past pupils of John Hope, teacher of history and archaeology at Bramston School, Wymam, and members (some founder-members) of the Brain Valley Archaeological Society, of which he is chairman.

Some of their many activities call for muscle. Robert Eaves and Neil Freeman are swinging pick-axes to cut through the surface of the Roman road to explore, on the advice of a visiting geologist, whether the ditch they have uncovered is natural or man-made. Andrew Brown and David Rowlow are deep down digging out the contents of a Roman well.

Others need perseverance, patience and a close attention to detail. "Pot-washing is not a job you like doing; it's monotonous but it's got to be done", says Richard Walwright; his team-mate, Simon, quite likes it when it's his turn. Robert and David (fifth-formers-to-be) are drawing the stratigraphy of the ditch section where "further digging is going to take place."

Spectacular findings are rare. When Julie calls out: "I've found something" nobody expects it to be another Celtic coin (two have been found); it is, in fact, a bit of sandstone which has, "tamed up" where sandstone ought not to be.

contd. on page 23



Flatford Mill Field Centre.



The "Fountain" site, Braintree, Essex.

TLS THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT Important news for New Subscribers New subscribers to The Times Literary Supplement can now take advantage of our special introductory rate of £25.00* for a year's issues - even cheaper than buying it from your newsagent. Simply complete the coupon below and our computerised subscription service will process your order at once. Offer applies to new subscribers in the UK only. Please send me The Times Literary Supplement for one year. I enclose my cheque for £25.00 made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd. Please print NAME ADDRESS Signature Date Mail this coupon with your cheque to Times Newspapers Limited, Supplements Subscription Manager, Oakfield House, 38 Perryman Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3DH. Overseas subscribers should write for information to the address above.

RESOURCES

"Our friends think we're mad"

contd. from page 22.

Christine Buik, an ex-Bramston pupil, a civil servant with the Ministry of Agriculture on her annual three-week holiday. Finds Assistant. She operates in the dilapidated old caravan. "Titus", sorting, labelling and numbering the artefacts which are brought to her. As secretary to the society she has brought in a lot of adults, who work on excavations at weekends. "I think we all feel the same, we're helping the community by giving it a sense of continuity."

The young enthusiasts originally took up archaeology as a school subject, usually as an alternative option to history. "It's more interesting when you find out things for yourself." For the first six or seven weeks, says Richard Eavis, "there was an element of treasure-hunting, and you soon grow out of that."

Though they are aiming at CSE, O/A and A level examinations, it is hardly certificate-hunting which brings them out three or four times a week during the holidays and uses up most of their spare time. Just before Christmas 1980, at a request of the Essex County Council and with the permission of their headmaster, some of the older pupils braved abominably wintry conditions to excavate and record a medieval site before it was covered up by a Sainsbury supermarket.

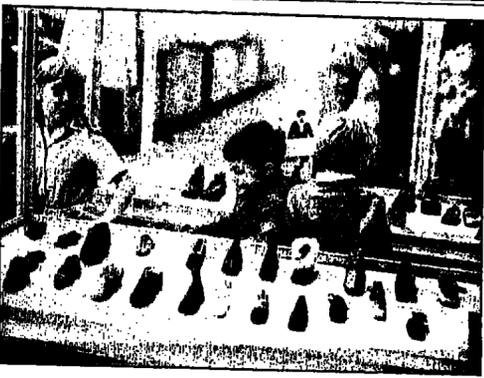
John Hope is well aware that his unique group (and his way of working with them) are not viewed with unalloyed approval by the archaeological establishment. "though they don't mind calling us in when they need us." Rightly or wrongly, he puts it down to the fact that he gives them all real, responsible, jobs to do, "rather than using kids as unskilled digging fodder on the fringes of official sites."

Few of the group aspire to become professionals, though ex-pupil Robert Eaves has been invited to join a county-sponsored excavation near Chelmsford and hopes to move on to a Scandinavian dig where he can pursue his interest in the Vikings. "Not that there's any money in it, of course."

Individuals have their favourite subjects - the Iron Age, Romans, Saxons, churches, hill forts, or whatever - which come out in their conversation and school essays. "Let's face it, John", says one, "outside your speciality, the Saxons, you're not the greatest teacher of archaeology going." John Hope cheerfully agrees. It's the kind of egalitarian thoroughness you often find when teachers and taught are involved in joint enterprises away from school.

Hundreds of organizations - based on residential schools and colleges, private and public trusts, and commercial establishments - offer activity, hobby and adventure holidays. Only a dozen or so have the extra ingredient promised by the National Trust through its Acorn Camps. "... an opportunity to prove your self-reliance and independence from a home situation, while accepting the demands of living for a time in a fairly close-knit community for the purpose of achieving a worthwhile team effort."

U.S.W.L. GUIDES AND DIRECTORIES Acorn Camps The National Trust, Junior Division, The Old Grape House, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 0HZ. Field Studies Council: The Education Officer, Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HW. Youth Hostels Association Adventure Holidays YHA Adventure Holidays, Trevelyan House, St Albans, Herts AL1 2DT. Outward Bound activities: Outward Bound Trust, Avon House, 360 Oxford Street, London W1N 9HA. General Activity and Hobby Holidays in England (75p + 25p postage) from The English Tourist Board, Heidon Road, Sunderland. Holidays and Specialist Interest Tourist Board, 23 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EU.



Lifting of the axe

Victoria Neumark visits the recently reopened Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green

Recently reopened from the axe of the Rayner Scrutiny, voracious for "cost-effectiveness", the Bethnal Green Museum looks ready for a second century as "a museum adapted to the wants of the densely populated neighbourhood of East London."

After repeated efforts by Lord Shaftesbury and others in the 1860s a museum in the East End was created in 1872 using the original prefabricated buildings of the South Kensington Museum (now the V&A) on land designated for the purpose by Act of Parliament.

The first collections on display reflected Victorian attitudes to the deserving poor. Food and Animal Products, featuring how to make beer and several useful things which could be made from feathers as well as "Christie food collected under the superintendence of the British Consulate at Shanghai", were still to be seen up till 1914, by which time most of the exhibits had perished from natural causes.

However, during the same period the museum was graced by preview showings of the Wallace Collection, the Pitt-Rivers anthropological collection, the national collection of portraits (later the National Portrait Gallery) and the Chantry Bequest, which was to form the nucleus of the Tate Gallery. For free, or for 6d (roughly equivalent to 50p nowadays) on students' days, East Enders could drink in fine art or gawp at Peruvian antiquities.

After the war the policy changed and "an Art Museum devoted largely, though not exclusively, to work of the nineteenth century, but linked so far as possible to East London history and craftsmanship" was the object. Displays of Spitalfields silk, furniture and shoe-making which are still popular today were mounted; a temporary home was found for the V&A's collection of nineteenth century decorative arts and furniture, soon to be installed in the re-designed V&A.

Throughout the period between the wars the museum's concentration on children grew, from one room set aside for "the special delectation and instruction of small children", to a whole gallery enlarged under the patronage of Queen Mary. In 1974 Roy Strong gave the Bethnal Green Museum its official title of Museum of Childhood and from that time all the V&A's curatorial interest in its toy, children's costume and children's books collection has been centred in Bethnal Green.

In the future the space presently occupied by nineteenth century furniture will house an exciting exhibition of family life and the social history of childhood. It will be the first such exhibition to be seen in Britain and should be of interest locally, in an area where traditional family patterns and one-parent families are intensely intermingled.

As Mr Burton says, "most families in history have been broken families". The history of childhood is a growth-area in academic discipline and this projected display neatly bridges the gap between

"public pleasure" and "essential scholarship" which the Rayner Scrutiny would have set at loggerheads with each other.

Though ludicrously understaffed, the museum has been valiantly appealing to children inside as well as outside school hours. Two thousand school parties visited the museum last year. If they had notified the museum in advance they were generally able to have the services of one of the V&A's Education Department on a guided tour. "Please thank the lady who showed us such a lot of things" one young visitor wrote, and another, "I think you should keep it open. If I did not go to school I would come more often."

In the holidays special programmes of events attract between three and four thousand children a year, many of them local and regular. Saturday art workshops bring in another thousand. The museum has 25 workshops for pre-school children with their parents 230 more. In-service courses for teachers and lectures for adults complete the programme run single-handed by Imogen Verrall part-time from the V&A.

As Ms Verrall says firmly, "If you come here you come to do something." Local boys looking for a ruckus are politely but firmly escorted off to the adventure playground by the wardens; timid youngsters who arrive on their own find, finding out that they love sewing and the creative atmosphere. At one weaving workshop in the holidays the activity room was abuzz with satisfaction from the very tiny cutting out paper strips, tongue and teeth, to quite big children trying their hand at the loom.

"Have we got to go miss?" came the disappointed cry, at four o'clock. It seems as if the shadow of the axe has for the moment been lifted from the optical toys and the tin soldiers, the Chinese houses with the tunnel and the pavilion, the wedding dresses and the train set and the golden teddy bear that sits downstairs. Yet if the recent flurry of publicity is to bear real fruit the V&A should pay more attention to the 218,000 patrons it has in the East End and give them the staff to make the Museum of Childhood really a museum for children too.

Undeterred by some sharp refusals to cooperate, including one from a pensioner who took the opportunity to complain about all the noise they were making with "that van", the children came back with their material and had a discussion about how things could be done to improve all the things people had complained about.

Nearby, a younger group got bogged down in endless fantasies about the royal baby being kidnapped by a palace intruder, and another group had to abandon their singing competition because of a technical hitch. The majority, however, were remarkably intent on the business in hand.

Community centre workers who drifted in to have a look were favourably impressed. A harassed Bob Chase, alias Sid Scratch, admitted that a one-day event like this could only be superficial, but it was a start, and something might go on from there.



MEDIA

Renegade radio

Liz Heron on Inter Action's radio van

It was a real dogday afternoon. The estate was one of South Lambeth's oldest and the sun beat down on a dry patch of grass that was more of a health hazard than a playground - littered with paper wrappings, cigarette ends, discarded mattresses, and other even less appealing detritus. You had to be careful where you trod.

This was where Inter Action's Radio Renegade van had parked itself for the day; one stop in its summer touring programme. This week it was London, the week before Peterborough, next week Southampton. The local authorities had made the bookings and by the end of the summer some 200 play-sites would be visited by three different companies carrying either radio or video equipment, or for some, a whole menagerie of farm animals (including a snake) that would be used as part of an exotic masquerade.

At Lambeth, the objective was for the children to make their own radio programmes. A team of five (usually six, but someone was ill) included two full-time Inter Action workers and three others specially trained for the summer but with community and youth work experience.

They had planned their strategy with care. For maximum effect, the morning's arrival had been staged with great theatricality. Colourful outfits and showbiz exuberance had attracted around 50 children to the van. But their interest had to be maintained - not easy on a hot, sticky day, with an age range from six to early teens.

The arrival of Marilyn Sarrington solved the enthusiasm problem. As a 13-year-old, she had a natural authority. She announced that the children must stop their illegal pirate radio activities. "It's crude child psychology, but it works" she explained. Whenever interest was in danger of flagging she reappeared to put another spoke in the wheel and cement group feeling.

By lunchtime different groups of children had worked on ideas for making programmes and had seen how equipment was used. Jingles, quizzes, interviews and news reports were scheduled. After lunch, things kicked off again with some rapidly orchestrated fun, then the children scattered to work with a tape-recorder. As there were not enough machines to go round, one group worked on producing a newspaper, learning to use stencils and a duplicator.

One lively group learned the techniques of interviewing with Ann Ward, alias Meg-shertz. They quickly mastered count-down, cueing-in, and controlling sound levels. After trying out with some short personal interviews, they devised a series of questions to put to adults on the estate: Do you think the estate's better or tidier? Should there be swings for the kids?

Undeterred by some sharp refusals to cooperate, including one from a pensioner who took the opportunity to complain about all the noise they were making with "that van", the children came back with their material and had a discussion about how things could be done to improve all the things people had complained about.

Nearby, a younger group got bogged down in endless fantasies about the royal baby being kidnapped by a palace intruder, and another group had to abandon their singing competition because of a technical hitch. The majority, however, were remarkably intent on the business in hand.

Community centre workers who drifted in to have a look were favourably impressed. A harassed Bob Chase, alias Sid Scratch, admitted that a one-day event like this could only be superficial, but it was a start, and something might go on from there.

Briefings Radio & tv Open University

Primary French in the Balance: Part 2 (Saturday, 06.40 BBC1) Primary French: A Discussion (Friday, 05.55 VHF3) William Prescott, who was concerned with the Nuffield Primary French Project for six years, talks about the issues which arose during the development of the course.

Continuing education Play Tennis (Saturday, 09.05 BBC1) Coach Derek Horwood introduces ten beginners to his step-by-step method of learning tennis.



Sound waves

by Basil Browne

RADIO On Holiday BBC Radio Four. Daily during August, 10.45 am

"Find a good wave and have a go" is the sort of advice one might have expected from On Holiday, and for a week, that's what the programmes came up with. Sharron Davies and Duncan Goodhew did a predictable tour of the coast, taking in light-houses, windsurfing, fishing, sailing, and the more exotic contents of rock pools.

Somewhat, it was a rather flat. Duncan Goodhew's very sporting attempt to describe his impressions while surfing on what he described as half a surfboard were perhaps the least successful, but generally there was an air of schooliness. Every now and then a kid popped in with a very rehearsed dreadful joke, and the voices of Duncan and Sharron achieved a school radio stiltedness.

On the other hand, one did discover that there are in existence marine activity courses, that land based lighthouses are generally open to the public, and that one should be careful of tides and feet when messing about in a rock pool.

There must be quite a lot of other places for children to investigate apart from the beach, but after a week by the sea On Holiday switched to snippets of information and brain teasers. Johnny Ball, ex-cabaret artiste, took over, and got into maths and physics.

Did we know that the Hindus invented the concept of zero? That John Cage's four-minute, 33-second (273 seconds) piece of silence was composed because molecular activity ceases at 273°C? Had we tried whirling a bucket of water around our heads, noticed that the water didn't fall out, and said to ourselves "that's gravity!"

The idea of having different presenters and formats for each week of On Holiday is a good one, but it falls down at the point of getting listeners to stay with the series. Eagerness of tone, which didn't feel so much like a holiday after all, was the other drawback.

COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION continued
LIVERPOOL
MILLBANK COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
TEMPORARY LECTURER (3 posts)

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
ROTHERHAM COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY
LECTURERS IN BRICKWORK

GRAMPIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL
RANFEE AND BUCHAN COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION
LECTURERS

HAMPSHIRE EAST SUSSEX TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Applications are invited for Part-time Lecturers in Design and Creative Studies

ILEA LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION
Applications are invited for Lecturers in the following subjects:
1) Textiles
2) Fashion Design

SWAZILAND UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Lecturer in the Department of Education

BURY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SADLERFLEET YOUTH CENTRE

CLEVELAND COUNTY OF CLEVELAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
DEPUTY WARDEN
£5607-£6180

LONDON THE SCHOOLHOUSE
Alternative education project in industrial area
£40000

GREECE
Qualified teacher required to teach four Greek girls aged 6-12 in Cyprus
Apply to Mrs J. Patterson

ITALY BARI
Authorised school of English also using English teaching materials
Apply to Mrs J. Patterson

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION
Young Street, Cambridge CB1 2NA
Applications are invited for the post of Head of Department of Business Studies

LEICESTERSHIRE SOLIHULL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Lecturer in Business Studies

SOLI HULL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Lecturer in Business Studies

OXFORDSHIRE & GILMOSS COMMUNITY WORKERS
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Youth and Community Worker

AVON COUNTY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Lecturer in Business Studies

MEDWAY TOWN'S YOUNG UNEMPLOYED PROJECT
Centre Managers
£7,571-£7,875

DEVON U.F.I. teachers required for English in Faroese schools
Apply to Mrs J. Patterson

NAIROBI Kenya
A family resident in Nairobi seeks a part-time English teacher for a boarding school

Lothian Regional Council
TELFORD COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION
SENIOR LECTURER II IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Salary on Scale: £9,986-£11,700

SHREWSBURY COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of Lecturer in Business Studies

Police Staff College
Lecturer in Systems Analysis
develop an increasing number and variety of command exercises, covering a wide range of social, economic and political problems

TEACHER
Burnham Scale 1 plus £948 pa
Community School Allowance
Derwent House Observation and Assessment Centre, Liverpool 13

NATIONAL YOUTH BUREAU
Applications are invited for the post of DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
(Salary scale SO2: £8991-£9528 under review)

STEVENS COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION
SENIOR LECTURER II IN MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERING
Salary on Scale: £9,986-£11,700

ADVERTISMENT
FIVE REGIONAL COUNCIL - EDUCATION COMMITTEE
CUPAR - ELMWOOD AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

QUALIFIED TEACHER
MILL HOUSE CH(E), CWMBRAN
Burnham Scale 1 plus £1,005 per annum Community Home allowance

TEACHER (Remedial Education)
BURNHAM SCALE 2
Plus £984 per annum Community School Allowance and £1,784 per annum Excessive Duty Allowance

Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Directorate of Social Services
KIRKLEES NORTHORPE BARN PROJECT
INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN KIRKLEES SOCIAL SERVICES AND NORTHORPE HALL TRUST

HEADMISTRESS and/or DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS
Required immediately for a primary through O-Level school in Dubai. We would prefer a British Muslim, but all candidates will be equally considered.

Headmaster's Diary

We made a quick tour of the school, and he went on at length about the 'sixties brutality' of our new buildings, which I had thought quite nice

Last night I spent some time telling Rona about my lunch that day with the Candlewick Rotary Club. It was a signal honour to be invited to address our leading citizens on the subject of "Education", and I enjoyed the occasion immensely.

I was made most welcome by Mr Bramley Wilkins, the president and a local architect who also runs the Candlewick civic society. No sooner had I entered the "Pickwick Snuggery" of the Red Lion than he thrust a schooner of sherry into my hand, and I believe it must have been refilled several times before we went in to eat a congenial repast.

I sat next to Bramley (as he asked me to call him) on the top table, and I found the Liebfraumilch an agreeable accompaniment to the roast chicken with chipolatas and game chips, followed by banana split and Gaelic coffee. It was just as well I had got Mrs Snode, the school secretary, to type out my speech in full, since the conviviality of the occasion made me feel extremely relaxed.

"Yes, I can see you had a fair bit to drink," Rona said. "Wine always goes straight to your head. I hope you weren't indiscreet."

This worried me a little, since I could remember so little of the conversation, except that it was very interesting and rewarding. I recalled that after my address - which was wildly applauded - Bramley stood up and talked at length about the civic celebration to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Candlewick's most famous son, the Rev Josiah Fluck: an eighteenth century divine who founded the much-admired Candlewick almshouses.

"I also remembered having a final glass of brandy at Bramley's insistence before driving back to school, and by mistake entering the exit road and not the entrance. I would not have noticed but for Nicks, the caterer, who suddenly leapt out of the shrubbery and began to wave and shout in a quite needless fashion. It nearly destroyed my mood of well-nurtured good humour.

I was, therefore, taken aback this morning when Mrs Snode rang through to say there was a Mr Bramley on the phone for me, asking about the help I had promised to give. It took me a few moments to gather my wits as this rather loud voice said, "Ah, James. Bramley here. Just checking up on the arrangements we agreed yesterday for your contribution to the community celebrations - you know, the Fluck centenary. I think we shall need at least 50 pupils for the 'door-step blossom' programme, and another 20 or so to plant up the commemorative flower bed."

I could reply, he added, to your kind invitation to visit this week and fix a society tree nursery.



And then I began to go quite cold with shock, as I read the message laid out in the plants.

Illustration by Rosemary Harrison

How about tomorrow afternoon?" Of course I had to agree, despite the crowded week ahead. It was strange I had forgotten all this.

I outlined the details to Arnold Bogwin, my deputy, indicating that it would be an important aspect of our school and community links. But Arnold lacked enthusiasm. "The nursery's no problem," he said. "That can go round the back of the incinerator. But most of the staff are tied up with invigilation, and it won't be easy to get adequate supervision for all these kids milling around sticking flowers in letter boxes."

I left Arnold to sort out the details, and then had the pleasant task of telling Cecil Stonejaw, our head of history, that the county was at last going to do up the top floor of the building where he and the geographers function. This is a very satisfactory block put up just after the war in the days of austerity. It was quite a change to have a harmonious conversation with Cecil, who is usually at odds with me about something or other.

Next day Bramley Wilkins drove up in his opulent limousine, and even Mrs Snode managed a smile as she showed him in. We made a quick tour of the school, and he went on at some length about the "sixties brutality" of our new buildings, which I had thought quite nice. What we reached the music block, she began muttering about "meretricious lounge windows". I moved him on as quickly as possible, since I knew Arnold

had decided to ask Cedric Moth, the head of music, to look after the flower and plant operations if nobody volunteered. And this seemed

no one else was keen, I thought I'd help out. I thanked Cecil warmly, and within half an hour he was on his way to the town with two groups of pupils. A party of third years had been detailed to put a flower on the doorsteps of all the prizewinning gardens in the civic society competition, while the fourth year non-examinable group, armed with trowels and forks, were to plant up the flower bed outside the civic centre.

This had been marked out with different colour leaves were to go, thus spelling out the timely message, "Fluck our Founder". Both flowers and plants had been supplied by Councillor Dimpickle, our chairman of governors, who runs a nursery in Station Road, so it was an occasion of

"So you're an architect?" Cecil said. "Well, in my view school architects have got a lot to answer for. Look at this dump. Not fit for battery-hens, let alone children. Damp, draughty and depressing. Thank God those windows are being filled in and this wall pulled down."

"But this is sacrilege," Bramley said. "The elevation will be ruined. Where is your sense of civic pride? I shall have to write to the county

architect and stop this. I'm sorry James, but our Candlewick heritage must be preserved. In its unique yet modest grasp of context and purpose, this charming little building is as eloquent as the Fluck Almshouses."

This was plainly a real blow to Cecil and to me, but I had to agree that Bramley was better qualified to judge these things. And having the civic society tree nursery in the grounds would go down well with the Candlewick cognoscenti. Next day, though, I was amazed when Cecil Stonejaw intercepted me as I arrived at school and volunteered to take charge of the entire flower planting business. "What you said about community links," Dr Stonejaw really struck home," said Cecil, who is always talking about community awards. "And since

equal importance to both town and gown.

It was, therefore, with a real feeling of pride that I attended the special ceremony at the civic centre this afternoon, to unveil the flower bed and join in the centenary celebrations with Bramley Wilkins, Dimpickle and other important local worthies. Cecil had thoughtfully arranged a large plastic sheet to cover the plants and protect them from the July sun.

It was a proud moment when Bramley, after thanking "Dr Stonejaw and all the Candlewick School staff and pupils for this magnificent contribution", invited Dimpickle to pull the cord which released the sheet. There was a gasp of pleasure as our eyes feasted on the florid colours.

He pointed out that the pupils' spelling was known to be weak

And then I began to go quite cold with shock, as I read the message laid out in the plants, and realised that there had been a dreadful error in the arrangement. A letter L for the first word had been transferred to the last, making it "Flounder", so that the plants spelled out a vulgar imperative to do with some kind of fish.

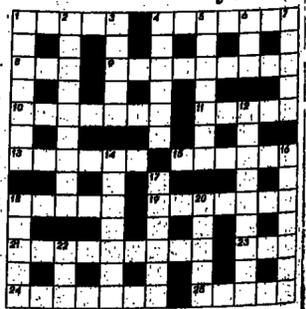
I at once began to apologize to the chief executive to find a garden as soon as possible to move the plants before the press noticed. Mr Dimpickle cut me dead, and even Bramley Wilkins said, "I say, boy - this is a bit of a staggery, what?"

I rushed back to school as soon as I could, and summoned Cecil forthwith. He was astounded to hear me out it, and full of apologies. But he had been given pupils to do the task whose spelling was known to be weak. I could only accept his explanation. But I was rather surprised, when I went up to the staff room after school with a new notice that the place was in an uproar of laughter, with Cecil the centre of attention. It seemed somewhat inappropriate.

Maurice Holt

CROSSWORD

No 65 by Rufus



- Across**
1. Stickler forms a union (5)
 4. He may top at sea or at the cricket ground (7)
 8. As well as the first fifteen letters (3)
 9. Hold back the power, or increase it (9)
 10. Stretch of river occupied by vessels (7)
 11. Cheeky little pup (5)
 13. It often figures in art exhibitions (6)
 18. Roughly repair shoes or roads (6)
 19. Brief period of enchantment (5)
 19. Concentration required when driving in France (7)
 21. Look-out man? (9)
 22. One about to show anger (3)
 24. The agony of men in the wrong (7)
 25. Fall behind it at the end of the day (5)

- Down**
1. Count things (7)
 2. Accepted the post as it happened (4,5)
 3. Long-legged bird on New Zealand (5)
 4. Tremble a tiny bit (6)
 5. It's hell for gimps at sea (7)
 6. Knock up a short nap (3)
 7. Concerning the first woman to marry a man (5)
 8. Long sea (5)
 12. Shift - but retaining (9)
 14. Liberate one from torment (7)
 16. Component that defies analysis (7)
 17. Join one to the money (6)
 18. The full general in reverse (5)
 20. It's an official material (5)
 22. One who is a road (3)

Solution to puzzle no 64



NEXT WEEK

Stuart Macrae analyses Sir Keith Joseph's agenda for the year beginning September 1982.
Careers: Brian Heap introduces a new regular Careers Diary with advice for the careers teacher.
Careers: Sylvia Anon: how the youth employment service works when there are no jobs (picture right).
Books: Tom Corby on local history; Martin Glastonbury on the history of women at work; Paul Harding on primary education.
Extra: Travel.

